Z BROADWAY

MARCH 1978

WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

45p

TUNISIA

Back row: Gasmi, Agrebi, Kaabi, Temime, Dhouib, Attouga.
Front row: Tarak, Kamel, Akid, Gommidh, Liham.

ARSENAL v MANCHESTER CITY

World SOCCER

Argentinian players are reprieved

FEARS in Argentina that Ruben Calvan and Omar Larrosa would miss the World Cup — following suspensions for 15 and 20 games respectively after attacking a referee in a League game — have been alleviated.

It is proposed that the Argentina Football Federation rewrite their own rules to enable national team manager Cesar Menotti to include Calvan and Larrosa.

Originally their ban would have kept them out of the World Cup. Now it is planned to change the laws so that the two can play in internationals despite their club suspensions.

But Menotti has other problems. Goalkeeper Hugo Gatti has been left out of the squad, with Menotti claiming that his first choice custodian lacked fitness. And captain Jorge Carrascossa walked out after a pay dispute.

Menotti must now work to repair spirit and morale in his camp. Despite their home advantage the Argentinians will have a tough task in getting through from Group One to the quarter-finals.

See "World Cup Countdown" starting on page 42.

For the Swedish group of 31 people to go to the World Cup finals on May 25 five have already been picked out . . . none of them players! Manager Georg 'Aby' Ericson, trainer Tord Grip, physician Hans Lewerentz, masseur Rolf 'Putte' Asr and cook Peter Ohlander are set to go. Georg Ericson is pictured above with some of the 41 players gathered for a special training session in Solna.

Follow the build up to Argentina with World Soccer

As the months, weeks, days, even hours tick by, and the start of the 1978 World Cup Finals draw nearer, interest in the competition increases. And with each issue of WORLD SOCCER our coverage of soccer's premier event will expand too. This month we begin our World Cup Countdown — a look at each of the 16 finalists — complete with a review of all the qualifying round results. There is our Who's Who, How they qualified and so much more. Next month Scotland will come under the World Cup microscope, Groups One and Two will be previewed with more from our Countdown and Who's Who features. WORLD SOCCER readers will be the best informed on all the events leading up to the World Cup. PLACE A REGULAR ORDER NOW!

WORLD SOCCER

79 TEMPLE CHAMBERS
LONDON EC4Y 0EX
Telephone: 01-353 5688

Editor: PHILIP RISING

MARCH
VOL. 18 No. 3

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Our caption writer was ahead of his time last month when stating that Tunisia were being featured on our front cover. They appear this month, pictured by Peter Robinson.

TURKEY GET READY

UEFA General Secretary Hans Bangerter recently paid a visit to Turkey to see for himself preparations for the UEFA Congress which will take place in Instanbul between April 20 and 24.

After a meeting with members of the organising committee he said: "I am satisfied with the preparations."

Mr Bangerter also spoke about Trabzonspor's expulsion from the Champions' Cup. "I examined the report on the incidents which broke out after the first round, second leg, match between Copenhagen and Trabzonspor. It is worth mentioning that many clubs have been similarly punished."

Fight

But Trabzonspor hope to fight the ban and will be attending a Disciplinary Committee meeting.

After being eliminated by Copenhagen, the Turkish crowd reacted violently and referee Ericsson was knocked unconscious by a missile thrown from the crowd.

* * *

IZMIR are to apply to stage one of the European Cup finals in 1979. Said Mr Bangerter: "Many countries wish to stage the finals. It is too early to make a decision."

* * *

TURKEY won their last World Cup qualifying round tie, 3-0 away to Malta. Turkey, who had no hope of qualifying for Argentina, scored more goals in Malta than England, Holland, East or West Germany, Hungary or Australia did at the Gzira Stadium.

Sedat scored the first goal for Turkey, followed by a second from Cemil, playing in his 50th international. He said: "I wish I could have scored that goal against Austria." Sedat added the third.

Confusion in Bulgaria

DURING the winter break most of the Bulgarian football league clubs have undertook trips abroad for friendly matches in Greece, Italy, Spain, South America etc.

As far as the Bulgarian national team is concerned, the situation at present is somewhat complicated. According an order of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Union of Physical Culture and Sport, where the Bulgarian Football Federation is a branch, taken in an extraordinary session, the coach-manager Christo Mladenov and his first assistant Ioncho Arsov were strongly condemned and the national football team was disbanded in connection with the failure in the qualification matches for the World Cup Finals.

It was stated that the Bulgarian national team showed unsatisfactory results, under the possibilities trusted and this was referred to unsufficient organisation, selection and high demanding training methods, which was considered as due to coaches mishandling. In this conjunction Christo Mladenov and Ioncho Arsov have resigned.

Now suddenly came the news that a friendly match between national teams of Scotland and Bulgaria will be held in Glasgow on the 22nd February. Up to the present day it is quite uncertain who will complete the national team and which players may be taken in consideration.

It is true, that in the meantime the Football Federation has entered in negotiations for friendly matches abroad and some are firmly arranged, namely: on March 29 — Argentina-Bulgaria, April 25 — Czechoslovakia-Bulgaria, May 3 — Rumania-Bulgaria and May 31 — Bulgaria-Rumania.

Last two being matches for the Balkan Championship.

These fixed matches, however, are foreseen for a farther future, when it is expected that the new coach-manager will be appointed and then he will gather the selected players for training camps. That is why the match Scotland-Bulgaria, arranged to be played in such near future, came as a surprise.

McQueen follows Jordan

Scottish international centre half Gordon McQueen became Britain's first £500,000 footballer when, like Joe Jordan a few days previously, he was transferred from Leeds United to Manchester United. McQueen is pictured with Manchester United chairman Louis Edwards (left) and manager Dave Sexton. The deal brought United's spending to a staggering £850,000 in two days.

MAKE YOUR MATCH

with

GREY-GREEN

A TOTAL CONCEPT IN SPORT TRANSPORTATION

For all your
GROUP TRAVEL
COACH TOURS
SPECIALITY WEEKENDS
CONTINENTAL TOURS
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
and
COACH HIRE

We take the strain out of travelling to the game, providing comfort and security all the way.

For further details write or phone:

GREY-GREEN COACHES LTD.

53-55 Stamford Hill : London N16 5TD : 01-800 8010

Soccer ke grid-foot

Eddie Firmani

PAUL GARDNER reports from New York

THERE are all sorts of ways and means of measuring the progress of a sports league, I suppose. All the obvious ones, like how many people are attending the games, how much television coverage you're getting, how much money you're making. And there are other methods, not quite so obvious, perhaps, but — especially here in the States — of major importance.

In particular, the North American Soccer League can (nay, must) compare its records and achievements with those of the other American professional sports, especially grid football. It is grid football that has been the super-success sport of recent years, so that soccer — if it wants to be taken seriously — has to do the same sort of things as grid football, and it has to do them well.

On this front, I can report definite advances. The NASL now has 24 clubs, and it has divided them into two conferences, each consisting of two divisions. This is partly for geographical reasons, to cut down on the enormous amount of travel that clubs have to do, but also partly, as Commissioner Phil Woosnam freely admits, because grid football has the same structure, and has been prospering mightily with it.

A more striking example of the necessity of keeping up with the grid football Jones's is the matter of the annual draft of college players. Regular readers of this column (should there be such creatures) will remember that last year's NASL draft was held at the league's offices, and was attended merely by a gaggle of journalists, while the various clubs were contacted by telephone.

It really worked very well, but the trouble is that the grid football people don't conduct *their* draft in that way. They hire a nice big hall and put on a real production, with all the clubs present *in vivo*, while the TV cameras grind away, and they even allow spectators to sit in the public gallery.

So, this year, the NASL held their draft at the Plaza Hotel in a sort of banqueting hall complete with carpets and chandeliers. There was a special section for the press, and even some seats for the public. And, of course, there were seperate tables complete with identifying labels for each of the 24 clubs.

Maturity

Up on the dais sat Commissioner Woosnam. Next to him, surely another sign of growing soccer maturity, sat the league's newly-acquired attorney. As each club made its pick, the player's name was pinned up on a board, the whole thing being totally illegible from the back of the room where I was sitting. No matter, as soon as each round was over, there were NASL staff circulating among us handing out typed sheets with all the details.

A certain amount of confusion was created by the tendency of clubs to trade away their draft choice at the last moment to another club, but it was confusion that added to the atmosphere of purposeful activity.

Of the draft itself, I must repeat what I have said about earlier drafts. There is an element of absurdity about the whole thing. We have 24 clubs each making one choice in each of the four rounds. In other words, a total of 96 players are being selected. Yet everyone knows that there are not 96 college players in the country with the potential to play pro soccer. There may not even be 24, which suggests that one round of picks would be enough — and of course, it would, if only one could tell *which* 24 players are the ones who can make it.

As it happened, there was one player who would seem to have had all that was required to ensure success; Billy Gazonas, captain of the Hartwick College team that won the championship last year, winner of the two most prestigious "college-player-of-the-year" awards. Yet, Billy was not drafted first. Nor second . . . he was the third pick to be made. For reasons that do not altogether promote confidence in soccer's future. There is no doubt in my mind that Gazonas was passed over by the first two clubs to pick simply because they considered him not big enough — a generous 5ft. 6in. I should think.

Only the Tampa Bay Rowdies seem to have cottoned on to the full possibilities of this. They had a representative at the tournament and then, by skilful trading of their draft-picks, ended up with the first and third pick in the third round. Something that allowed them to draft Perry van der Beck and Sandje Ivanchukov, two of the best high-school players in the country.

Which raises the obvious question: just how good are the high-school players? Like the curate's egg, and like everything else to do with soccer in the United States, they are good . . . in parts. This past autumn I have watched some two dozen high-school games in the New York area.

A few of them have delighted me, showing teams playing as teams, composed of boys who obviously have a considerable knowledge of the finer points of the game. Other games have appalled me, barely resembling soccer at all.

How come this tremendous variation within a comparatively small geographical area? There is a lovely,

eeps up with tball Joneses

simple explanation, one that contains a major message for the future of American soccer. What emerges is that the quality of a high-school soccer team has very little, if anything, to do with the high-school's own soccer programme.

What counts is that, somewhere in the high-school's area there should exist a strong little-league programme. In this way the high-school receives a steady supply of young boys who have already been playing the game for several years. All the best high-school teams that I saw this year were situated in areas with strong youth programmes.

If it wasn't known already, it should surely be known now, that the high-school (and probably the college) system is not geared to producing soccer players. There are just too many restrictions and regulations surrounding the sport — restrictions on the number of games that a team can play, limits on when they can practise together, rules against high-school players playing for non-school teams, and so on.

System

Unless a determined effort is made to cut through this mass of red-tape then the future development of American soccer players will be through little leagues, amateur teams, and some sort of apprentice scheme with the pro clubs. In other words much closer to the system of producing soccer players everywhere else in the world, than to the American system of producing grid football and basketball players.

The search for good American players has to be understood in the light of the NASL's regulations: each team, this season, must have two American citizens *on the field;* not just adorning the bench, but actually out there playing. There is room for honest differences of opinion over whether this is the best way to encourage the development of American players.

But I don't think anyone would argue against the *aim* of the scheme.

It may turn out, though, that the biggest stimulus to the arrival of American players, is that well-established root of all evil, money. NASL coaches, in their yearly travels to Europe to sign players, are finding things more and more difficult. Prices are high, which is bad enough; but there seems now to be an artificially high rate for American clubs.

Eddie Firmani reckons that the price of a player goes up around 33 per cent when the Cosmos start making enquiries. Other NASL coaches return from Europe empty-handed and long-faced, some of them, ironically enough, blaming Cosmos for the whole thing. "They're ruining the market, they've got too much money," moaned one.

Confronted with prohibitive prices, what more natural reaction on the part of NASL clubs than to start youth programmes? This would entail reserve teams, something that — despite a good deal of talk every year — has been noticeably absent from the NASL now (though one must take honourable exceptions of the Cosmos and of Seattle).

Throughout his career so far he has had, inevitably, to battle against the prejudice against small players. He has succeeded brilliantly in high school and college soccer — developing into a fine midfielder with above average skills and a remarkable vision of the game. This is an encouraging, and rather rare, state of affairs in American college soccer, where by and large players are able to get by with the purely physical aspects of the game.

Who is it who complain most loudly about the college players' lack of skills and vision? Why, the professional coaches. Yet, when a player like Gazonas comes along he is not the number one draft pick. "Those who think my size counts against me are really contradicting themselves," says Gazonas. "After all, they're always saying that soccer is a game that can be played by anyone, that it's a game of skill, not size."

I shall watch with great interest to see how Gazonas does with the new club in Tulsa — hoping that there is a place for the small player, even on a club that is sufficiently lacking in taste to call itself the Roughnecks.

The No. 1 choice in the draft fell to the Caribous of Colorado, coached by former Northern Ireland captain Dave Clements. The choice was Greg Makowski, a solidly built defender, former captain of the United States Olympic team, yet another product of the St Louis area. A typical product in fact, which, if you like that sort of thing, is fine; if, like me, you are not too keen on it, then a sort of depression sets in. This is Makowski on himself as a player: "I'm a physical sort of player — I mean when I have to mark someone, he knows he's been in a game."

Makowski says that candidly and openly, believing that it reflects nothing but credit on his game. That is upsetting enough, but how much the more disturbing is it to realise that the Caribous agree with him and make him the No. 1 draft choice? We have enough physical players in the NASL. What we need are the skilled ones, and it would be nice, to say nothing of it being proper, if it were the NASL clubs that could encourage a trend towards skill.

Despite their high ranking in the draft-choice list, the names of Billy Gazonas and Greg Makowski are not exactly household words in the United States. Nor, to be realistic, are they likely to become so in the foreseeable future. This, perhaps, is the biggest difference between the soccer and the grid football drafts. Where college grid players are already widely known and are, the best of them, capable of going straight in to the pro clubs and starring there, college soccer players are distinguished more by their anonymity and the series of question marks that hang over their ability.

A situation that has led, quite naturally, to the pro clubs looking elsewhere for young players. Namely, to the high schools. For the NASL this is a trend that carries a built-in time-bomb, for the American public generally would not take kindly to the sight of pro clubs fighting (and, no doubt, engaging in what are usually called "dubious practices") to get the signature of a high-school player.

It was to avoid this that the NASL decided that in the third round of this year's draft, clubs would be allowed to choose high-school players. Obviously, no club has the money or the time to scout all the high-school players in the country, but the United States junior team that played in last year's Monaco tournament brought together the cream of the crop, and provided club scouts, if they were interested, with an economical way of looking at a lot of talent.

WHAT NEXT FOR MOORE ?

LAST WEEK I had lunch with Bobby Moore. Thirty-eight other members of the Sportswriters Association were there as well, but their presence can safely be ignored for the purpose of discussing the views on current topics of England's most capped player. Bobby was one of the greatest footballers I have ever seen — no doubt about that. But nowadays he is a figure of slight embarrassment, living in a limbo, not really involved, merely waiting for "the call" from . . . from where?

His obvious choice would be the Football Association, after all, he did apply for the job of England team manager: "I feel that I have a contribution to make," he says. "With my experience and knowledge of international football, I could guide and advise the younger players."

Moore, not unlike his spiritual mentor, Sir Alf Ramsey, is outwardly calm, which hides an underlying bitterness. Just let us analyse this interesting observation: "Ron Greenwood's the right man for the job of England manager. He understands the game, he knows that there is a vast difference between playing against a foreign team and against a British one. But I believe that his assistants should all be full-time employees of the F.A. It is imperative that they watch players, systems, study foreign teams — how can they do that if they are busy with their own club sides?

"Players wearing the England shirt should not need motivating. If they do, they shouldn't be there in the first place. On a club level, a manager must "motivate" because the team has 50-60 games per year, and doesn't always feel like playing, but an international manager's task is to let the players know what he expects from them tactically.

"Ron has that knowledge — I have been impressed with his team against Italy. In Barnes, Coppell, Brooking, Trevor Francis, we have exciting world-class players. If Brooking was Dutch or Brazilian we would drool over him, but he is not fully appreciated because he is English."

Bobby lets the proverbial cat out of the bag when he propagates the idea of ten(!) full-time England managers on various levels. He would like to be one of them — that's no secret — but is it financially viable? Is it really necessary?

How did Hungary manage in the 'fifties with Gustav Sebes plus a guy with a sponge? Holland's current manager, Ernst Happel, lives and works in Belgium, yet they didn't lose a match in '77. When Moore praises Greenwood the tactician, he is implying that Ron couldn't make a dog fetch a bone, let alone a footballer perform above his club form. But he cleverly draws a line between Brian Clough, the brilliant "motivator", and Greenwood the master-coach.

By pursuing this line of thought, Moore continues this subtle vendetta against his former boss at West Ham, which began a year ago, when his book, written in co-operation with Jeff Powell, was published. Perhaps vendetta is too strong a word, but there was a great deal of unwise — and to my mind unjustified — comment in that ill-fated autobiography.

Not even Greenwood could possibly forgive such behaviour — hence the futile attempts by Moore to get on the F.A.'s pay-roll. When he speaks of the "foreign-biased" media, he is pure "bulldog-Ramsey", echoing years of frustration, when a home draw against Rumania had to be explained as "bad luck" or "we didn't convert our chances into goals".

Future needs

Yet, he sees the future needs clearly: "We must concentrate on the next World Cup. New faces must be introduced — results shouldn't be the prime consideration. It doesn't matter if we don't win a match for two years if we establish a foundation for the future." When I remarked that we might be too "World-Cup-orientated", and there is a European Championship in two years' time, he reasoned: "Two years represent 24 matches — half-a-season in a club's life. You can't expect to put things right in such a short time."

I disagree, because there is no real comparison between a club, stuck with basically the same players for six months, and a national side, which can introduce a brand new set of players from one game to another.

It is also fatuous to say that players don't need "motivation" when they play for their country. They cannot change their basic nature, and the footballer who has to be bullied/cajoled/overpaid to give his best when he plays in the League, needs the same medicine when he is wearing an England shirt. Patriotism is not enough. . . .

Bobby fears that the World Cup will be "hard". "I hope it's about football and not other things. But Scotland might do very well if they put it together. They have a lot of players with great skill, and one of their strongest sides for years. But the big question mark against them is their temperament."

Moore, who by right should have picked up a fortune in the USA similarly to that of his friend Franz Beckenbauer, thinks that football is not quite established there yet. "I like the idea of limiting "off-side" to 35 yards from goal, but I hope that they will not "Americanize" the game too much. If they want to join the mainstream of football they must stick to FIFA rules."

Bobby Moore is a likeable character. He has charisma and a strong enough personality to succeed in the jungle of football management. I sincerely hope that he'll find a niche for himself in the game — and that he won't publish any more autobiographies.

GOD-BLESS the cotton-socks of my young, prolific colleague, Keir Radnedge! Judging by his piece last month, he seems to think that the World Cup is "about football", and that the best teams will prosper. Past experience tells us otherwise, and the draw (euphemism for a pre-determined allocation of places) for the current competition's Finals put the proverbial lid on it.

FIFA clearly states that "for economic and accommodation considerations, five countries were placed in various groups and given various 'numbers'." Before I embark on this infamy, let me recall Joao Havelange's assurances that Italy will be seeded alongside hosts, Argentina, W. Germany and Brazil. He also outlined the shape of the draw which seemed

Speaking Personally . . . LESLIE VERNON

ALAN THOMPSON DAILY EXPRESS replies to Leslie Vernon

IN his otherwise excellent and thought-provoking article in last month's issue of "World Soccer", Leslie Vernon twice takes comments of mine to illustrate his opinions.

As one who uses his pen occasionally as a sword it would be ill-becoming and churlish of me to object to a pin-prick. But do please allow me to correct the dear boy.

Or perhaps correction is unnecessary – perhaps a short course in logic would serve greater purpose, because Mr. Vernon takes two paragraphs on the England situation quite out of context, makes cheap capital . . . and then agrees.

Purely in the interest of all those deeply concerned with the future of England's international football we will delve deeper among the bones of contention.

In applauding the composition of his back-up team, I did say that Ron Greenwood was preparing the ground for his abdication. Now, examine the facts:

1:- Ron Greenwood has been appointed for two years, so clearly someone – be it himself or members of the Football Association – is not viewing the situation AT THE MOMENT in the long-term.

2:- Greenwood quite properly and in my opinion unselfishly, appointed as his aides some of the countries best soccer brains, among them other contenders for the England managership.

If England begin to produce some consistent success Ron Greenwood, as I know him, will be sufficiently generous in heart to pass the credit around. If, on the other hand, England should fail in the forthcoming two years, Greenwood will have at least provided other men with invaluable experience.

It is because I admire Ron Greenwood's attitude and approach to his present position that I suggest his abdication is inevitable. Either way – if England succeed he will consider his job well done and hand over to a younger man; if England fail he will simply hand over.

Vernon himself makes the point that Brian Clough ". . . is still not quite ready to represent England". Quite so . . . but Ron Greenwood has provided Brian Clough (and others) with the OPPORTUNITY of gaining that vital experience and knowledge.

Presumably, in using the words "not quite ready", Vernon considers that Clough may shortly be fully equipped for the task. If so, let Leslie be counted among the members of the popular front.

The arguments presented against my contention that "international players should not need coaching – or if they do, they should not be there" are a clear indication of how English soccer suffers at the hands of shallow journalism.

In order to reach the stage of international selection a player must have attained a high degree of proficiency, either with the gifts God gave him or with those manufactured through coaching at junior and club level.

To suggest otherwise is to cast a slur on the ability of the individual players, and upon the capabilities of the vast army of very good club coaches.

But in my experience international players are, by and large, intelligent human beings, always prepared to listen to sensible suggestions on how to play the opposition.

To Vernon's question: "Are they (internationals) equally proficient with both feet (and) in heading the ball?" I simply ask: Were Ferenc Puskas and Stanley Matthews, or – in heading – Bobby Charlton? And would intensive coaching have made them better players – or worse?

However, all is not lost between Vernon and Thompson in future Press Boxes. I completely endorse everything he wrote about Don Revie and, yes, it is good to have an honest man at England's helm again.

---

reasonable, and laughingly mentioned that his three-and-a-half years old grandson was "too young to be a crook".

Enter Herr Hermann Neuberger, who is considerably older than young Ricardo, tells-off Havelange for making "premature" statements, and proceeds to wangle the draw — a manoeuvre worthy of Machiavelli, that well-known Italian technical adviser. Just to show who the boss is, Neuberger recommends Holland as the fourth-seeded country. After three hours' argument, the Italians agree, but ask to be placed in Group I because of the contingent of Italian emigrants living in Buenos Aires. (At that point, the Hungarians should have demanded to play at Rosario, where a gypsy orchestra is scheduled to tour next June, and Austria should have asked for a place in the group playing in Mendoza, where there is a restaurant which serves excellent "wiener schnitzel").

Special law

But there is a special law for the rich and influential in this particular corridor of power, so the Italians' wish was granted, while the rest were thrown to the wolves in the shape of an incredibly unfair format. Good luck to Ally Baba and his 22 kilted thieves for getting into an easy group, but how could anyone equate France with Iran, Austria with Tunisia?

Hungary and Sweden were told that Ricardo's innocent hands could only place them either into Group I, where Argentina and Italy were waiting for them, or into Group III, where Brazil and Spain were enjoying a comfortable spot. What has Spain done during the last hundred years to receive preferential treatment? Oh, well, you see, they speak Spanish, and so do the Argentinians! So, it will be easy to "accommodate" (see above) them, because if they need a fresh towel, they will be able to talk to the chambermaids.

Backing

What did this "arrangement" mean for Hungary? (and Sweden). That they couldn't possibly be drawn into a group headed by fading Holland, and that they must face the hosts and the Italians — both with the backing of huge crowds, intimidated referees, etc. But that wasn't enough for the shrewd Neuberger. Italy were given the No. "4" ticket into Group I instead of No. "2", which would have been more logical since they were the second country nominated for that group. So, while France have to travel to Mar Del Plata for their first game, back to Buenos Aires for the second, and back to Mar Del Plata for the third, the Italians can stay put in Mar Del Plata until their last game in Buenos Aires. Their last group game against Argentina kicks-off nearly six hours later than the France v. Hungary match. So, there two seeded Latin countries will know exactly what kind of result will suit them.

Am I cynical? No, merely realistic! And there are other little hidden intricacies, such as Brazil's starting number of 12, which enables them to play-off all their games in Mar Del Plata. In my view, a fair draw would have put the four seeded countries in one "cup", the four countries which played in the '74 Finals (Sweden, Italy, Poland and Scotland) into another, the four weaklings (Peru, Mexico, Iran, Tunisia) into a third, and the rest (Hungary, France, Austria, Spain) into a fourth.

Then Ricardo or Miss Argentina '78 or the Pope himself should have drawn out one each for each Group. There could have been "lucky" or "unlucky" draws with this method, but one could only curse blind fate, not a W. German gent with vested interests. And if anyone still thinks that the World Cup is merely a fair sporting contest, I would ask him not to watch the games — his idealism might be shattered for life.

Torn-up

As for myself, I have torn-up my Press accreditation even though the Argentinians have promised "100 per cent erection" of their stadiums. I shall watch from the comparative comforts of a T.V. studio chained to a chair in case I have the urge to kick the screen in the first time an Argentinian or an Italian puts a Hungarian or a Frenchman on a stretcher. . . .

WORLD SOCCER, March, 1978

NORDQVIST BID BREAK MOORE

by Arthur Rotmil

BOBBY MOORE'S splendid world record of 108 international caps will most likely be broken on May 18. But not by one of the numerous South Americans on whose behalf some extravagant claims have recently been made, but by a Swede.

Björn Nordqvist (35), sweeper and captain of the national side, has already amassed 106 caps. Barring injury he should play for Sweden against East Germany on April 4, v. West Germany on April 19 and then against Czechoslovakia on May 18, when Nordqvist should get his world record call up. At the moment the list of leading internationals looks like this:

Bobby Moore (England)	108 caps
Bobby Charlton (England)	106
Björn Nordqvist (Sweden)	106
Billy Wright (England)	105
Torbjorn Svensson (Norway)	104
Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany)	103
Joszef Bozsik (Hungary)	100

Of course, those South Americans who have chalked up a "century" of caps do not claim any records, for it appears that for all of them journalists, eager to present new "milestones", have added all B-internationals, representative matches against club sides and State (provincial) teams and even games against international army selections!

Thus, the great Pelé has been credited with 110 matches and his compatriot Rivelino with 107 for Brazil, the Chilean Leonel Sanchez with 104, the Peruvian Hector Chumpitaz with 102, whilst the Brazilians Gilmar and Nilton Santos allegedly have 100 each!

Obviously many of these games outside the fully recognised internationals do not count. The great Rivelino himself admits: "I've only played 90 full internationals for Brazil". And if Nordqvist were to include his four B-internationals and ten for the 'Under-23-team', then he could claim already 120 caps!

Interruptions

Björn Norqvist was born on October 6, 1942, in Hallsberg and he is a salesman by profession, being like most Swedes now just a part-time footballer. He has been a member of the national side since 1963 and has captained his country, with a few interruptions, for the past eleven years. In 1969 he was voted "Footballer of the Year". For a while he was a full professional with PSV Eindhoven in Holland. Following his return to Sweden he has been playing for IFK Goeteborg.

On June 12, 1977, Nordqvist celebrated his 100th call up (caps are in this case just mythical, because only in England are players actually given caps) — and this milestone he reached in a game against Denmark. Now, after a further six internationals he is on the threshold of a new world record and has a chance to improve on it during the World Cup in Argentina, where he could play at least three matches.

It will be a worthy climax to his career which he intends to end next autumn. He was brought up in Hallsberg, supported by his enthusiastic father, himself an active footballer, a centre-half with IFK Hallsberg, so that naturally Björn also joined the same club.

He developed through schools and junior teams and was still a youth when he gave his debut in the fifth team. Nordqvist was regarded as an all-round sportsman, for he also excelled at the Scandinavian winter game of Bandy and at ice hockey. But his main interest was football.

In 1960 he received his first chance when he took part in a training spell at a camp for budding youngsters and was spotted by the Englishman George Raynor, then national manager of Sweden. In the same year he made his first appearance in the national youth team. Other clubs soon began taking note of him; Oerebro SK wanted him at first for their . . . Bandy team!

But it was IFK Norrköping who made the lucky catch. At the age of 19 Nordqvist first turned out for his new club and soon became a regular. All told, he played 460 games for Norrköping — a series which was only interrupted by his turning professional.

In 1963 Nordqvist celebrated his call-up to the full national side against Hungary in Budapest, but it ended disastrously with Sweden losing 4-0. But he could not have foreseen that this was the start to such a long and distinguished international career. Fortunately, the national manager ignored some less convincing displays. The then chief coach Orvar Bergmark encouraged Nordqvist and stood by him. Gradually Nordqvist established himself first as a stopper and then as a sweeper (libero). When Bergmark was replaced by Georg Ericsson, in 1970, he "took over" Nordqvist as well.

Performances

When his club-mate Ove Kindvall left for Feyenoord Rotterdam it affected Nordqvist who already rejected one offer from Young Boys (Bern). Actually the Swiss club were looking for a forward, so the deal didn't go through.

His continued improving performances brought further recognition, when he was appointed captain of the national side. Nordqvist was always tough, but scrupulously fair defender. He was only once given a caution for pulling Cruyff's jersey during their World Cup clash in 1974. "It was the only way I could stop the Flying Dutchman," explains Nordqvist.

Earlier, in 1972, at the age of 30, having nearly given up all hope of a career abroad, Nordqvist was offered another chance. A French club from Paris and PSV Eindhoven showed keen interest. This time the "veteran" didn't hesitate — he signed for the Dutch club. Soon there was a small Swedist colony at Eindhoven, when Ralf Edstroem and Peter Dahlqvist also joined that well-known Philips Sports Club.

Reinforcements

In 1974 Nordqvist returned to Sweden. Eindhoven wanted to extend his contract, but he already had a good offer from Goeteborg. This club wanted to make a comeback in the league and was looking for reinforcements. Goeteborg offered Nordqvist a good job with a big firm in the sports equipment field. And this persuaded the international star footballer to accept. He was already wisely thinking of the future without active football, moreover as he was beginning to find training too hard and exhausting.

Last season having helped IFK Goeteborg to re-establish themselves in Sweden's First Division he decided to play one more term. But after the World Cup tournament next June he will quit and devote himself to his wife and job.

Of his "better half" Björn Nordqvist says: "Without Barbro I would not have made it. She has always lent me support and above all, provided a harmonious home atmosphere." Nordqvist is a quiet, sensible man, a footballer who always gives his best, a club captain who enjoys the confidence and respect of the management and the players, not a wondering malcontent flitting from club to club.

In his long and fruitful career he only played for four clubs: Hallsberg, IFK Norrköping, PSV Eindhoven and IFK Goeteborg. Every one of those clubs wanted him to stay and appreciated his value, not just as a player of quality, but as a model for others to copy. And he undoubtedly would have made a name for himself in club management.

Who were his toughest opponents? Nordqvist says: "Cruyff and Eusebio were always difficult to mark and stop, both were so clever. But the biggest trouble given to me was by two Swedish forwards, Agne Simonsson and Leif Eriksson!"

His greatest experience? Nordqvist: "The replay against Austria in

DS TO RECORD

Gelsenkirchen (Germany) in 1973, which gave us victory and qualification for the 1974 World Cup. But football has always been good to me and provided many memorable moments, especially during the World Cup tournament and also during my stay in Holland."

Rivelino tally open to doubt

Now of course he is looking forward to the world series in Argentina where he will again be the pillar of Sweden's defence.

This then is the portrait of the next record capped footballer, whose performance is even more meritorious, when considering that Sweden do not play as many internationals as some other countries. Indeed, because of climatic conditions there is no soccer played in that country at all between November and April. Yet, Björn Nordqvist through his application and ambition, thanks to steady, solid displays is about to make history. It is doubtful whether in his own country he can achieve greater popularity than either the skier Ingemar Stenmark, or the tennis star Björn Borg, but Nordqvist will not be envious of these famous competitors. He knows that his milestone was reached, after all, in the most popular sport of them all.

Rivelino of Brazil.

Giles in the news again

JOHNNY GILES is seldom out of the news in Eire. Since he returned to lead the Shamrock Rovers revival last July the "little general" must by now have lost count of the number of newspapers and magazines who have done features on him. Giles also has his own column in a Sunday paper (writes SEAN CREEDON).

The Shamrock Rovers revivial is well under way but Giles has been criticised by some of the Press for his cautious approach i.e. go square or backwards rather than risk losing possession.

In January he announced that he was joining Philadelphia Fury during the Summer. This news came shortly after he had agreed to a new contract to be Eire Supremo until the Summer of 1982. Later in the month he resigned.

The Football Association of Ireland Executive didn't agree to two of the five names put forward by Giles as his assistants. The five were: Alan Kelly, Assistant Manager of Preston and Giles's right hand man since his internationl appointment in September '73. Billy Young and Dave Bacuzzi respective managers of Bohemians and Home Farm and Eamon Dunphy and Ray Treacy both of whom are playing and coaching under Giles at Rovers. Dunphy and Treacy were the two objected to and Giles was left with no alternative but to resign saying:

"With profound sadness and disappointment I have informed the President of the F.A.I. that I can no longer act as Irish international team manager. It was the only honourable step I could take when the F.A.I. Executive refused to accept those I wished to appoint as my assistants. Contractually, of course I was entitled to appoint my assistants and give their names to the executive committee prior to public announcements. However, the fact that there was obviously no confidence in my judgement was crucial in the decision to terminate my relationship with the F.A.I. My consolation is that I can leave with both dignity and honour."

However, after requests from Press and public alike to put Irish Football first both parties compromised and Giles withdrew his resignation much to the delight of the Eire players, four of whom had telephoned Giles saying they no longer wanted to play for their Country if he was not in charge.

Although Eire failed to qualify for the last European Championship and the current World Cup, Giles has made Eire one of the most respected sides in Europe and it would have been unfortunate had he lost the reins at this stage. His record as international manager reads: P20. W8. D6. L6. Players used 32. Now thirty seven, Giles still feels fit enough to add to his Eire record of 51 caps.

Eire's first game in the European Championship is away to Denmark on May 24 and before then they have lined up three friendlies. On April 5 Turkey visit Dublin, while a week later they travel to meet their now regular opponents Poland. A game against Norway on May 21 has been arranged on route to Denmark.

* * *

The long awaited dream of an All Ireland Soccer team could come through quicker than expected following the "extremely productive" talks between the Irish Football Association (Northern Ireland) and the Football Association of Ireland (Eire) in Dundalk recently. Both parties are due to meet again in Dublin on March 8.

* * *

Bohemians continue to set the pace in the Bass League of Ireland. Despite losing some of their star players to the Football League the Gypsies keep turning out new talent to replace their exports. In recent years they have sold Mick Martin, Gerry Daly and Ashley Grimes — all to Manchester United. Gerry Ryan proved a bargain at £35,000 to Derby County earlier in the season and now three more of the Dublin club's stars are leaving. Pat Byrne, Fran O'Brien and Eddie Byrne have agreed to join Philadelphia Fury for a joint fee of £100,000.

HILL STILL A WINNER

Story by Brian Marshall

JIMMY HILL is a man who wears many coats in the course of an extremely busy week which could see him in such places as Coventry, London, New York or Saudi Arabia.

In the course of these travels Hill has recently come in for a great deal of criticism that faded just as quickly because of the Londoners' pleasing personality, which has, over a period of time, captivated, charmed and built up an impressive business empire.

It is, in retrospect, noted that Hill is a person who has to keep on the move from one appointment to another. He appears to have a restless urge to carry everything before him in a race up the ladder.

Over the years he has brought off many smart deals to his own advantage. Showing an extreme degree of self confidence he has played a major part in the re-organisation of the game in England over the past two decades.

His important stepping stone was the Professional Footballers' Association. He was an affable yet ruthless chairman of the union which altered the structure of the game by winning the hard, relentless struggle to free players' wages.

He did not benefit himself as a direct result of these successful negotiations but indirectly it opened the door for him to step into the managerial position with Coventry City and give him a very high platform from which he could display his undoubted talents.

An extrovert character, Hill has obviously achieved a great deal more from the game than anyone else in living memory. These achievements have been recorded from the soccer platform and it is to his credit that he has been able to turn such a staid organisation to his own advantage.

Personally, I spent a great deal of time in thought as to Hill's outlook on soccer. One of the early conclusions is that he says a great deal but in the evaluation of his utterings there is very little upon which he can hang his hat.

But this simple fact is often hidden by the sheer output of the man who moves around with the enthusiasm of a pop star. He overwhelmes people with his get up and go attitude to life which has now paid handsome dividends.

His famous profile of the jutting jaw and cavalier beard appears highly suited to his own personality which has won him many friends and admirers.

He has, to his credit, achieved something of a personal ambition over the past year when he moved into his impressive 17th century farmhouse home in the Cotswolds.

None of the players, who earned the big wage packets negotiated by Hill back in the late 50's, will achieve such splendour and silently this is something of which Hill, a former insurance agent, stockbroker's clerk, soldier and soccer manager, is so rightly proud because he has carved out this way of life for himself by his own efforts.

There is little doubt that he has cashed in on his own brand of personality which enabled him to change from soccer management to the demanding world of television and business.

But if there is one thing that Hill has discovered along the many miles he has travelled over the past few years it is the need to keep moving and not stand still. He is a firm believer of not putting all his eggs in one basket and this is why he is currently involved in so many different ventures.

On the up to date scene, soccer's "Mr. Fixit" is involved in Saudi Arabia, the United States, television, Coventry City, where he is unpaid managing director ("my hobby"), head of a consultancy firm and his activities associated with his county house where he runs a kind of "horse hospital".

Any one of these activities would keep the normal person busy for the rest of his life. But not Hill. He has to keep on the move, just one step ahead of everyone else and there is little doubt that he is doing a darned good job.

Whether you agree with him on his utterances is a different story all together. Some people hang onto to every word, while a minority, of which I suppose I belong, are left just cold.

Hill's track record, cannot be disputed and for this reason the man deserves a great deal of credit. He moves so quickly that he has no time to gather any moss and this, I believe, was the reason why he was so successful when he turned to management with Coventry City.

He was given a free hand by Derrick Robins and this was the master move because between them they revitalised Coventry and transformed the Midland club from a struggling Third Division outfit into the progressive First Division club it is today.

Hill's panache was the main reason for the transformation. Even in those days he realised the advantage to be gained from good, clean publicity. He often went out of his way to promote novel schemes which were simple and highly successful.

There was no stone left unturned by Hill during his managerial stint at Highfield Road. Even his excursions into the transfer market were a success because the magical Hill with the silvery tongue made average players believe in themselves to a degree which produced some exciting times.

It was a gay merry-go-round which culminated in Coventry City reaching the First Division and Hill, then 39 years-old, announcing that he was quitting the Highfield Road set-up he had created very much by his own hands.

After five and a half years at Coventry he thought it was time to move on. Not even Brian Clough could have made such a shattering decision only a few weeks after Coventry City had returned to the First Division.

But at the time Hill claimed: "Being manager of a soccer club is the most difficult job in the world. Five and a half years ago I couldn't resist having a stab at it. Now I've had a go and got it out of my system."

That was ten years ago and with hind-sight it was the best possible move that Hill could have made. Unlike many of his contemporaries he got out at the top. He was not sacked and was able to build upon his success at Highfield Road.

Hill was a winner and the world loves winners and this has been very much his story ever since. He has gone from strength to strength because of his bubbling enthusiasm and determination to succeed in whatever project came along.

Very much like a shooting star, Hill has derived a great deal of personal satisfaction from his soccer dealings and there appears to be a lot more steam left in him yet as he approaches yet another World Cup finals.

His suave, pleasing manner, hides an active and determined attitude, which has put him in such a five star position he holds today. Whenever he crosses swords with anyone he usually emerges with his feathers, previously ruffled, immaculately in place.

This is Jimmy Hill, the easy speaking personality, who has in his own inimitable way transformed the soccer scene in England — and in other parts of the world.

What kind of Press do we want?

asks BRIAN GLANVILLE

NOT long ago, the London correspondent of a leading Italian daily newspaper visited me in the offices of the *Sunday Times* on a Saturday evening to pick up an early copy of our latest revelations in the long-running Lobo-Solti investigation.

He admitted wryly that he could not compete in his standard of living with that of the Italian football journalists, some of whose houses he had visited. There, he had been astonished by the opulence. The fact is that the world of Italian football journalism has, with certain distinguished and upright exceptions, become a world of payola.

Internazionale, in the days before the regime of the present, amiable President, Fraizzoli, was famous, or notorious, for the lavish presents given to Milanese journalists at Christmas. Roma, though certainly not under the Presidency of the estimable Marchini, Communist millionaire, spent large sums on trips for local journalists and their wives.

Italo Allodi, Grey Eminence first of Inter then of Juventus, now controversially in command of the Federal Technical Centre in Florence, generously gives selected journalists expensive prints or even paintings as presents; though recently a Roman journalist of independent mind sent him back a print of equal value: to his evident chagrin.

By and large, however, the Italian football Press remains a disgrace, a fact which was never so clearly demonstrated last January, after Keith Botsford and I had returned to the attack in the *Sunday Times*, revealing that UEFA had indulged in the shabby, time wasting stratagem of ordering Juventus to sue the corruptor of referees, Dezso Solti.

An agency correspondent in Geneva enterprisingly followed that up by telephoning Rene' Eberle, the Secretary to the UEFA Disciplinary Committee, in Berne. Unfortunately his knowledge of the affair was rather worse than negligible. He and his agency sent out a farrago of ludicrous inaccuracies, which promptly found their way into both the English and, with greater space and emphasis, the Italian Press.

The behaviour of the Italian papers, even those as renowned as *La Stampa* of Turin and the *Corriere Della Sera* of Milan, was contemptibly dishonest and idle. First, not one of them bothered to check the story, so that they repeated the idiocies of the agency report; to wit that the match concerned was not the Derby County-Juventus second leg semi-final of the 1973 European Cup, before which Solti tried unavailingly to bribe the referee Lobo in Lisbon, but the first leg, in Turin.

A further mindless inaccuracy was the assertion that a tape recording existed proving that the match referee had been bribed, the implication being that this recording would now be brought forward in evidence.

In fact as readers of *World Soccer* well know, the tape recording was made by Lobo when Solti phoned him from Milan to try to persuade him to accept his bribe.

This allowed the Italian Press disingenuously to evoke the first game which Derby lost 3-1, a game with displeasing undertones, since Schulenberg, the West German referee, was seen talking to Juventus' West German forward Helmut Haller in his dressing-room before the game, and again in the corridor at half-time, when the assistant manager Peter Taylor angrily intervened, causing a scuffle. Schulenberg, moreover, controversially took the names of Archie Gemmill and Roy McFarland, meaning that as each had previously received a booking, neither could play in the return. Brian Clough's outburst after the game, outside the Derby dressing-room, seems in retrospect to have had a pretty substantial basis.

Still and all, this was *not* the game around which the Lobo-Solti affair has pivoted, and it was deeply dishonest of the Italian reporters to go to Juventus footballers who had played in that first game and blandly report their disavowal of any dirty work at the crossroads.

Rigmarole

The reporters also went to Giampiero Boniperti, President of Juventus, who of course gave them the usual smooth rigmarole: ". . . nothing to do with us . . . old stories . . . Juventus have already been cleared." An honest, uncorrupt Press wouldn't have left it spineless by at that. Its representatives would have asked the obvious question, if that is so, then how is it that the *Sunday Times* were able to publish the photostat of a document proving that Solti *DID* work officially for you in January, 1971 when he went to Twente Enschede in Holland to try to arrange Fairs Cup dates in Juventus' favour?

But of course the question never did get asked. Instead there was a lot of camouflaging nonsense about why it was that the Lobo case was "always" evoked by the English on the eve of a World Cup. Contemptible stuff that demands no answer from me, the less so as in 1974 both Keith Botsford and I actually promised Artemio Franchi, then Italian FA President, that we would lay the matter to rest till after the 1974 World Cup.

In this context, the venomous attack made on the English Press by Ken Smales, Nottingham Forest's Secretary, in the match programme of the January game against Arsenal, seems all the more gratuitous. The implication of that attack was clearly that the only journalist acceptable to Mr. Smales and Forest was one who toed the party line, printed nothing but what they told him to print, and evinced no independence whatsoever. Let me quote from this egregious tirade.

> *The word "Press" covers a multitude of sins – and sinners.*
>
> *On the one extreme are those journalists who live in a kind of twilight world, who work for the "gutter press", the kind that are neither interested in nor paid to report on the match. They are more concerned with ferreting out any "behind the scenes" scandals . . . They are the ones that live on rumour and halftruths and who have neither any feeling for nor owe any allegiance to a particular club and, if the truth were known, to football itself.*
>
> *They are quite prepared to discredit the game that gives them a living in their pursuit of the sensational if it suits their purpose. They are the ones to keep clear of.*
>
> *At the other end of the scale is the journalist attached to the local newspaper who, if he is to be successful, has to hold a special kind of relationship with "his" club officials and realise what can and cannot be repeated on print.*
>
> **What said "censorship"?**
>
> *John Lawson, of the "Evening Post", has had to learn when to turn a deaf ear . . . John knows the rules, just like any other local press man, and realises that if he breaches that trust he will be working on the kind of news releases fed to the nationals.*

But if the news releases "fed to the nationals" are of such implicitly inferior quality, can Forest blame them if they dig a little deeper?

Other journalists, Mr. Smales shamelessly pursues,

> *. . . work for national "dailies" and are a group of Midlands sports writers . . . All at one time or another have been trusted – once. A few will never be trusted again, whilst a few have retained the status of trustworthiness.*
>
> *We didn't see them all that often during our lean times . . .*

There is much more, alas, of same, but I think my point has been made. God forbid that our own football Press, whatever its occasional shortcomings and excesses, should ever resemble that of the castrated, disingenuous Italians. You cannot have it both ways. Either a Press is free, and free to make, at times, a displeasing spectacle of itself, or it becomes a mere channel for propaganda. The saddest thing is that Mr. Smales, however crassly, has merely articulated the feelings of a very large number of our football clubs. May I be so old fashioned as to say that the two chief duties of the Press are towards truth and its readers?

PERU—NO TEAM OR MANAGER!

AS 1977 started — with five months to go to the World Cup — Peru has neither a manager nor a team. The team was disbanded in July after qualifying for the finals by coming second in the final South American eliminator played in Cali, Colombia, in which they beat the poor Bolivian team 5-0 and lost 1-0 to winners Brazil who also failed to impress. The committee put in charge of World Cup preparations by the Peruvian government had also resigned and at the time had not been replaced.

The two big questions were: (1) Should Marcos Calderon — who took Peru to the 1975 South American championship and through last year's World Cup qualifying matches, but showing a lack of know-how and experience for top level World Cup soccer — be retained. (His contract expired at the end of 1977. (2) Should Peru continue to rely on the team which reached the finals and which is composed of ageing stars — most of them hastily brought back from clubs abroad — who did so well in the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico — Chumpitaz (36), Cubillas (30), Ramirez (29), Sotil (29) among others.

This team managed to get through the qualifying stages by beating weak sides (Chile and Ecuador in their first round group) due to their experience, but they were slow, had fitness problems and no coherent team plans.

From ERIC WEIL

In what is considered a move of desperation the Peruvian FA called on all 16 First Division club managers to select a list of 33 players and a national team manager by the end of January. Among the 16 — who are really coaches as their duties are with the teams and managing is done by the club committees — are Uruguayans Roque Maspoli and Eduardo Hohberg (who was in charge of the Uruguayan national team last year) and player-coach Julio Melendez, a 35-year-old back who himself played in the Peruvian team last year. What ever they come up with however, last year's veteran squad could hardly be improved as practically no newcomers worthy of consideration have stood out in the season's club tournaments.

Meanwhile Marcos Calderon, still nominally in charge, said the squad would start World Cup preparations around the middle of February and would go on a pre-World Cup tour to Mexico and Europe. He also said a psychologist would be engaged for the team as his services were considered indispensable to get the players to put up a good performance in Argentina. Calderon wanted to play Holland, Scotland and Iran — the three teams in their group — in pre-World Cup friendlies.

FIFA shelve Asian dispute

THE International Football Federation (FIFA) temporarily shelved its dispute with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) over the controversial membership of China, Taiwan and Israel to ensure a trouble-free World Cup in June (when they met in Buenos Aires a few days before the World Cup draw).

After a day-long heated debate FIFA's executive committee withdrew the January 19 deadline it gave the AFC to expel China and take back Israel and Taiwan into its ranks or else face sanctions. Instead it was decided to form a five-man sub-committee to have talks with the countries involved and make recommendations to the executive committee within 120 days to be studied before the FIFA congress in Buenos Aires on May 28.

There had been fears that the dispute between FIFA and AFC might prejudice the World Cup if Iran, one of the finalists, sided with the AFC. In that case FIFA would have had no choice but to suspend Iran.

Dr Joao Havelange, President of FIFA, holds his grandson, three-year-old Ricardo, during the World Cup draw.

World Cup news... World Cup news

● *The committee agreed by a 10-7 vote that players who take part in the preliminaries or finals of the World Cup will be barred from participating in the Olympic Games.*

● *Japan was chosen to stage the second Junior World Cup from August 25 to September 7 this year.*

● *WORLD CUP TICKETS: Only 18% of season tickets available (for 10 matches each) in Argentina had been sold at the time of the draw, although those covering the final had been sold out. Almost half the tickets for matches in Buenos Aires had been sold (43%), but the percentage was far lower for the other venues Rosario (11%), Cordoba (10%), Mendoza (8%) and Mar del Plata (5%). The organising committee, EAM 78, was however planning to change the sales system now that the fixtures were known.*

● *FAN CLUBS and reception committees for the various World Cup finalists are being formed in Argentina and the first to start up officially was the Austria Fan Club. This was formed in Buenos Aires on December 22 with the main object of making that country's team feel at home here . . . on and off the field.*

● *HOLLAND have booked their team at the luxurious Potrilleros Hotel in the foothills of the Andes where a training field is being specially prepared and which is 80 km from the City of Mendoza where they play their three first round group games.*

● *SCOTLAND will stay at Alta Gracia, a summer resort near Cordoba where they play two group games before facing Holland in Mendoza. If Scotland finish second in their group, they play two further quarter-final games in Cordoba before moving to Buenos Aires for the third. Only if they finish top of their group will they take over Holland's quarters in Mendoza to play two games there before playing the third in Rosario.*

● *THE BRITISH COMMUNITY in Argentina, mostly centred around Buenos Aires, is naturally disappointed that Scotland may not play at all in the capital unless they reach the semi-finals. Cordoba is 710km from Buenos Aires and Mendoza 1100km.*

● *BALLS for the World Cup will be supplied by the German Adidas firm, although they will be manufactured in France and Argentina. Representatives of each of the 16 finalists were handed three of these balls by the manufacturers.*

Argentina leave out Carrascosa

THE major surprise of the 22-men squad picked by Argentina's national team coach Cesar Menotti to start training in Mar del Plata, the seaside resort and World Cup venue on the Atlantic coast, on February 15, was the absence of team captain Carrascosa who had been the defensive stalwart against England, Scotland and other European teams which played in Buenos Aires last year.

He had asked to be excluded, because his wife was expecting a baby during World Cup time. Another absentee was wing half Bochini from last year's squad, while defender Wolff, wing half Piazza and forward Kempes — the players Menotti wants to bring back from Europe — were also not in the list.

No definite news had been received as to when they would be allowed to return to Argentina and Menotti has said that he would not include them unless the first two were back 60 days before the World Cup and Kempes 30 days.

Gatti and Bertoni, both with physical problems, were still due to be examined before training started and all this means that the 22 (who are not allowed to play for their clubs until after the World Cup) can not yet be considered as the final World Cup squad. They are goalkeepers Gatti (Boca Juniors), Fillol (River Plate) and Baley (Huracan), defenders Tarantini (Boca Juniors), Pagnanini (Independiente), Killer (Racing), Capurro (Newell's), Olguin (San Lorenzo), Passarella (River Plate) and Bottaniz (Union), halves Ardiles (Huracan), Larrosa (Independiente), Gallego (Newell's), Galvan (Independiente) and Villa (Racing), forwards Valencia, Oviedo, Bravo (Talleres), Houseman (Huracan), Luque (River Plate), Bertoni (Independiente) and Ortiz (River Plate).

Wolff, Houseman, Kempes and Fillol were in the 1974 World Cup squad while Gatti played in a previous World Cup.

Menotti, recently returned from an extensive tour of Europe, said he only saw two countries whose soccer was superior to Argentina's — West Germany and Holland. He said he would prefer to take Argentina on a pre-World Cup European tour, but for the moment only home and away games against Brazil in March (for the Roca Cup) and home games against Bulgaria, Portugal and Romania were arranged.

Brazil face the cold

BRAZIL'S coach, Claudio Coutinho, not at all happy that his team will be playing its first round group games in Mar del Plata on the Atlantic coast where biting cold winds and rain are frequently the order of the day in winter (June) when the World Cup will be played in Argentina, intends training his team on muddy grounds to get used to it.

The squad was due to set up its training camp at Teresopolis (100 km from Rio de Janeiro) where it frequently rains during this time of the year — but if it does not, the fields will be watered. Coutinho also hoped to find wet and wintry conditions during the team's pre-World Cup European tour.

"My players must be conscious of the fact that they have to compete and fight under any conditions instead of just showing off their skills. We want a technical team, but also one with plenty of fighting spirit which knows how to escape any kind of marking. Brazilian players are used to being marked loosely at a distance, but I know European players will mark us closely and we must learn how to escape it," he said.

The Brazilian team will also be training in special boots with aluminium breaking studs suitable for slippery fields, Coutinho said. The players stand to make 31,000 dollars each (including publicity share-outs, win and draw bonuses) if they win the World Cup.

THEY are saying that West Germany has already won the World Cup, but it isn't because they are reigning champions, nor because they were the team to impress most of several European sides which toured South America last year, nor because they were favoured by the draw.

The fact is that German firms have obtained most of the major contracts for work being carried out in preparation for the big event — from the extensive telecommunications equipment right down to the preparation of the grass playing fields at the World Cup stadiums.

Even the footballs, although produced in France and Argentina, will be supplied by the German Adidas firm . . . so West Germany are thus the first sure winners (financially) before a ball has been kicked and before Argentina has totted up its gains . . . or losses.

But also without a ball having been kicked, it seemed Scotland emerged as the most feared country from the lengthy FIFA meeting two days before at which all arrangements for the draw were made. It had already been decided that, for financial reasons, Italy would play in the same group as seeded Argentina, but representatives of the three other seeded teams (West Germany, Holland and Brazil) all argued strongly against having to play in the same group as Scotland who were put in the second strongest lot of four (together with Italy) for the draw.

When Scotland's manager, Ally McLeod, was asked about this fear of Scotland afterwards, he smiled and said: "Possibly it's because we play a tough game, but we shall see how the other teams behave when the World Cup starts."

Those with long memories may have remembered that Scotland were unbeaten in the last World Cup four years ago, yet failed to qualify for the quarter finals. Scotland were then drawn in a strong group with Yugoslavia and Brazil who were also undefeated, but ended up with superior goal differences — Brazil's being better by only one goal (3-0 to Scotland's 3-1).

Where Scotland, who drew with Brazil (0-0) and Yugoslavia (1-1), missed out was in beating Zaire, the fourth and weakest member of group, by only 2-0, while Yugoslavia and Brazil (who also drew against each other) beat the African representatives 9-0 and 3-0 respectively.

Medical standards suspect

SOME searching questions have again been asked of medical standards in Spanish soccer after the tragic blow to the excellent Argentine goalkeeper, Roberto Jorge d'Alessandro.

The 28-year-old, who joined Salamanca in 1974 from San Lorenzo de Almagro, was taken ill after a 3-1 defeat away to Athletic Bilbao. But he was nevertheless put on to the team bus for the 200-mile trip home.

At Valldolid, just over halfway, he was no better and after reaching home he had little sleep before being taken into hospital at four in the morning for an emergency operation for the removal of a damaged kidney. At one time he was on the danger list.

Now convalescing d'Alessandro has been told he should never play football again.

One of the surgeons who operated has also said that if he had been kept in Bilbao and spared the long bus ride it might have been possible to save both his kidney and his career. As it is d'Alessandro can look forward to a mere £6,000 lump sum insurance pay-out, and must then decide how to look after the future.

Over the past five or six years there have been several incidents in Spanish football which question the real care taken of players. There have been the deaths of Las Palmas' international defender Tonono, Pedro Berruezo, and Barcelona's Julio Benitez. Then a kidney injury nearly forced Real Madrid spearhead Santillana out of the game.

Santillana has been able to play on successfully because, despite all the careful tests which players at this level should undergo, no-one had ever discovered that he has a kidney abnormality, a sort of double-kidney on one side!

No such luck for d'Alessandro, one of the key men in hauling Salamanca out of the second division in 1975 and up among the UEFA Cup place contenders this season.

Generally he had been lucky with injuries in Spain — except when he was due to play his 100th consecutive league game, and had to pull out on the day of the match because of an injury in training!

How did this kidney injury occur?

Presumably in a collision with a Bilbao forward, either Carlos or Dani. Carlos remembers a clash with d'Alessandro, but says the goalkeeper got up without any fuss or bother, while Dani can't remember making any contact with the goalkeeper.

Be that as it may, Salamanca were granted a little luck when they visited leaders Real Madrid a couple of weeks later. Madrid were awarded an early penalty which Juanito mis-hit. Stand-in goalkeeper Antonio Ordonez saved and Salamanca earned a deserved point from the 0-0 draw.

Vallecano keep pace

by KEIR RADNEDGE

WHEN the third Madrid club, Rayo Vallecano, were promoted for the first time in their history at the end of last season no-one dreamed what would happen.

And I was certainly among those fans and officials who feared that life in the top sphere of Spanish soccer would prove far too strenuous for the squad of unknowns.

That was an impression strengthened when, after achieving promotion, Rayo decided to part company with Javier Garcia Verdugo — the man who has guided them forward — and recall the former Valencia forward, Hector Nunez.

He had worked before at Rayo — in Spanish that means 'thunderbolt' — but it was surely going to cause more problems than it would solve for a club who, not many years before, had been applying for re-election to the league.

Even president Marcelino Gil Blazquez was only trying to be realistic when he told his first-team squad before the season: "All we ask is that you work hard and do your best."

Now, incredibly, Rayo stand fifth in the table — albeit seven points behind leaders Real Madrid — but only three behind Barcelona and level on points with Valencia and Athletic Bilbao and going hell for leather for a place in next season's UEFA Cup! And they haven't gained their points merely at the expense of the strugglers. Both neighbours Real and Atletico Madrid have been beaten in Rayo's 18,000-capacity stadium in the working-class suburb of Vallecas, while they recently went away to Johan Cruyff's Barcelona and drew 1-1!

Nor has this been achieved through judicious buying and selling. Only five players have not been developed by the club and, of those, two are not regular first-team members, and a third, Argentine-born Daniel Astegiano, was picked up on the cheap after a disappointing trial with Barcelona.

Several of the players who have seen Agrupacion Deportiva Rayo Vallecano, to give the club its full title, thus far have impressed Spain's manager Ladislao Kubala. Indeed, full back Antonio Anero, who is just 24, became the first Rayo player ever called up for an international when he was named in the squad for the friendly against Italy.

And with the quick-tackling Luis Nieto, and experienced midfielder Jose Fermin, Rayo have sound back-up talent for their lively forwards. Indeed, two have recently hit league hat-tricks. Oswaldo Gonzalez scored three against Cup-holders Betis Seville and 26-year-old Alvaro Ruiz, nicknamed Alvarito, hit another treble in a 6-1 thrashing of relegation-bound Cadiz — one of Rayo's promotion partners last year.

Alvarito is one of the outsiders, for Rayo picked him up from Elche, and it was his goals more than anything else which earned promotion.

Rayo's victory over neighbours Atletico was not their most impressive — the pitch was in a treacherous state, and snow blowing through in the icy wind added to the players' problems.

But there was no doubt Rayo deserved to be ahead through a 40th-minute goal by defender Francisco Tanco, and a goal from Pedro Landáburu seven minutes from time made the situation even more unpleasant for Atletico coach Luis Aragones.

The champions are 10th out of the 18 clubs, not so far above the relegation zone, and they'd be even more in trouble without experienced goalkeeper Miguel Reina. Visiting Valencia Atletico had top scorer Ruben Cano sent off at half-time after a scuffle with a Valencia defender, but still hung on at 1-1 until seven minutes from time, when they gave away a penalty.

Mario Kempes strode up to take it — and he really belts the ball — but Reina guessed right and parried the shot to save a point.

Atletico's disciplinary record grows ever more appalling, just as injuries start piling up too. What's gone wrong this season? — There are reports of internal dissension over the imbalance in some of the players' contracts, but Luis himself will publicly only blame referees.

Certainly Atletico were unlucky in their home Cup-tie against Athletic Bilbao to be denied what seemed a clear penalty for a foul on Cano when they were 1-0 ahead. They went on to lose this first leg 2-1.

Leaders Real also have team selection problems, through injury and illness. It's the need to field weak teams which cost them two of their six-points lead when they were held 0-0 at home by Salamanca and 1-1 away by Sevilla.

Pirri, Gregorio Benito, Jose Antonio Camacho, Henning Jensen and Vicente del Bosque have all been injured — Camacho's ligament injury being the most serious, for he will not only miss the rest of the season but the World Cup Finals as well.

Managed

Without four of those first-teamers Madrid won 3-2 narrowly away to bottom of the table Hercules, but were then held 1-1 at home by Las Palmas. The Canary Islanders, now managed by ex-Real Chief Miguel Munoz, couldn't believe it when they trotted out at Chamartin to find a mere 6,000 (!) crowd in a bowl built for 125,000. The reason was partly the terrible weather, secondly the fact that this match was being televised live.

Madrid's goal came from Carlos Santillana, who now leads the league scorers with 17, one ahead of Kempes.

There are more injury problems elsewhere — with Bilbao star Chechu Rojo trying acupuncture in a desperate attempt to overcome the tendon injury which has kept

him out all season. Perhaps if that doesn't work he'll take the advice of Betis international midfielder, Julio Cardenosa, who says he is now clear of back trouble after sessions with a faith healer!

Second in the table Barcelona have been in the wars, too. Johan Neeskens injured knee ligaments in the closing minutes of a match at Burgos shortly before Christmas and will be struggling to make the UEFA Cup quarter final against Aston Villa.

In the meantime skipper Johan Cruyff found the fans turning against him for once when his weakness for opening his mouth at the wrong time to the wrong referees brought him a booking which, as it was his third, kept him out of the next game — and that was a 1-0 defeat by Valencia.

Wisdom

The Barcelona fans didn't take kindly to that, and nor did team-mate Alfredo Amarillo, the Uruguayan left back who has his doubts about Barcelona's wisdom in going Dutch.

Amarillo claimed that coach Rinus Michels dropped him "because he said I was too good a footballer to be playing left back." But Amarillo blamed Cruyff's influence and, at dinner later, bounced a bread roll off the Dutchman's nose!

Not the best way to try to get back into the team!

Another Dutchman in the news is Cruyff's former Ajax colleague, Gerrie Muhren. He did well with Betis last season but, because he is a foreigner, lost his place for the cup run which ended in triumph, and has been struggling to return ever since.

His recall coincided with a stormy game against Valencia which finished in a 1-1 draw, but only after Valencia's hot-tempered French coach, Marcel Domingo, has been shown the red card for racing up to the referee to protest about a penalty overlooked.

Domingo has been suspended for two matches by the FEF.

BUSY MONTH FOR SPAIN

JANUARY was a busy month for Spain's team boss Ladislao Kubala as he shuttled between Buenos Aires for the World Cup draw, his home in Barcelona and Madrid, where his men scored a presentable 2-1 win over Italy in a friendly.

The only setback was the serious injury which Real Madrid's Jose Camacho suffered in training, which meant that Kubala's first task in the Italy match was to try out a new left back, for Camacho won't make Argentina.

His choice fell upon Valencia's Jose Carrete, though he did call Rayo Vallecano's Antonio Anero into the squad. Apart from the Rayo interest there were few other local players to draw the fans to the Estadio Bernabeu in Madrid, and so the attendance was only 20,000.

Most of Real's senior players were down with flu, most of Atletico's out of form.

Italy's manager, Enzo Bearzot, decided to keep faith with the young team who had won 1-0 against Belgium at the end of december. This meant no place for Zoff, Facchetti, Bettega, Benetti, Causio or Graziani.

Spain: Arconada — Marcelino, Migueli, Pirri (Olmo), Carrete — Leal, Asensi (Villar), Cardenosa — Dani, Cano (Santillana), Lopez Ufarte.
Italy: Paolo Conti (Bordon) — Scirea — Gentile, Manfredonia (Bellugi), Maldera — Patrizio Sala, Tardelli, Antognoni (Zaccarelli) — Claudio Sala, Rossi, Pulici.

Spain, as you would expect, had more of the play in the first half, going ahead with a Pirri penalty after 10 minutes, awarded by referee Robert Wurtz for Lionello Manfredonia's trip on Ruben Cano.

Only a sharp save by Paolo Conti 10 minutes later prevented Pirri making it 2-0, but he was lucky to deflect a shot from Cano in the 27th, saving only by sticking out a leg.

The Italians replied with two tame shots from new star Paolo Rossi and skipper Giancarlo Antognoni, and Dani put Spain further ahead eight minutes after half-time, prodding in a pass from Eugenio Leal.

After that Spain sat back and allowed the Italians to take a grip on the game, but all that cost was an 84th-minute goal from Marco Tardelli, put through by Patrizio Sala.

Four players were booked — Cardenosa and Dani, Pulici and Maldera. Of the 19 matches between the two countries, the record is now even — each having won six times, with seven games drawn.

And that Spanish win was encouragement for Kubala after the disappointment of a World Cup draw which provided Brazil, Austria and Sweden as immediate rivals.

Not that Kubala seemed too perturbed. In fact, from a personal standpoint he seemed even pleased that "we haven't drawn Hungary."

Kubala, of course, was born there.

Action from the Spain-Italy match in Madrid which Spain won 2-1.

News from France by Andre Duclos

TOUGH GROUP AHEAD

THE World Cup draw could surely have been kinder to our international team. It is pleasant to know that Ally MacLeod, the Scottish team manager, thinks France good enough even to win the World Cup, but to have to compete against Argentina, Hungary and Italy is no small task.

One boost is given, however, by the fact that France did manage to hold Argentina to a 0-0 draw in Buenos Aires at the Boca Juniors Stadium, last summer. Moreover, that was a French team which did not have Dominique Bathenay and the elegant Nice veteran, Jean Marc Guillou, in midfield; nor did it have Dominique Rocheteau at outside-right. Michel Platini was in midfield it's true, but it was not the real Platini, as he is not fully fit.

It was not of course the Argentina team we shall see in the World Cup, either; Mario Kempes, the Valencia striker, was not among those present in attack (or perhaps as left midfield; we shall see). Wolff and Piazza, of our own Saint Etienne, were not there either. As we know, Menotti, the Argentinian manager, would like to have both of them in defence next June.

Argentina will be met in the River Plate Stadium in our second game, on June 6. The opening match takes place at Mar del Plata on June 2, when we meet Italy. There was a previous World Cup match between our two countries in Paris in 1938, when Italy ran out the winners of a fine game, and of course went on to win the trophy — beating oddly enough the Hungarians, who will be in the same group this time, in a Final whose score was Italy 4, Hungary 2. Perhaps history will repeat itself though such relatively high scoring games are uncommon when Italy is playing.

Our experts here are worried about the possible intimidation of the referee in the Argentinian game; who isn't? But they also feel that this Argentine side hasn't the skill and flair of its predecessors, that it is vulnerable to change of pace, that its defence tends to play in line, that it might even be the easiest of the three opponents. Well it might, from a technical-tactical point of view, but this as we know may be far from the most important. Whether the likes of Platini, Guillou and, if he plays, Rocheteau will be permitted to play football remains to be seen. An Argentinian side playing before a huge impassioned crowd and getting nowhere can, as we all know only too well, turn savage. And what will the referee do then?

Financial irregularities

Daniel Hechter, President of Paris Saint Germain, has been thrown out of football for alleged financial irregularities in the conduct of the club. Though Hechter seems beyond doubt to have gone far beyond the pale, the club committing all kinds of financial irregularities, there has been a good deal of sympathy for Hechter not only there but in the game at large. As the sturdy President of Saint Etienne, Roger Rocher, has observed, Hechter simply went too far in a world where clubs are forever obliged to live beyond their means. A pity.

The Championship continues to be fascinating and unpredictable. There seems little chance that Saint Etienne can regain the title they lost to Nantes last season, but Nantes themselves are still well in contention, with the three Southern clubs, Nice, Marseille, under the impetus of Josip Skoblar, and little Monaco, managed by the wise, experienced Lucien Leduc. These last two drew an interesting game at Marseille, played in very bad weather, 2-2, the Monaco skipper and midfield player Pettit popping in two goals to save a Monaco team which in the first half four times kicked off the line and were twice saved by the posts!

Leduc, wise man, says that there is still a long way to go; his team won't think about the title but will just go on going out to enjoy itself, playing the kind of football that it likes to play. What a rare bird among modern managers! He pointed out at Marseille that Monaco had their bad luck, too, notably the inability to see a blatant foul by Boubacar on goalkeeper Ettori on the occasion of the second Olympique goal.

In certain respects, however, Nantes remain the most interesting and attractive team we have, and another victory in the Championship would be popular. They were a little unfortunate to meet such tough opponents as Atletico Madrid in the second round of the European Cup, after eliminating Dukla in two drawn matches. The great thing about Nantes is that they are a very young team, with only three or four players at any one time over the age of 23, and that these players are for the most part home grown. Neither they nor Saint Etienne signed a single new player in 1976, though as we know Saint Etienne "weakened" to the extent of signing a couple of expensive new forwards last summer, neither of which has really come off.

The admirable midfielder Henri Michel, 48 times capped for France, continues to exert a calm and inspiring influence on the Nantes team. He is 30 years old, and he has every hope of figuring in the French World Cup team, though at the moment the midfield consists of Guillou, Bathenay and Platini. It seems inconceivable that Michel won't at least be in the party which goes to Argentina. It is even ten years since he made his debut against Poland in Warsaw in a match which France won splendidly by four goals to one.

"Henri Michel," says the French team manager, Michel Hidalgo, "is distinguished above all by his elegance. He is a well balanced athlete who looks good in everything he does. His apparent facility conceals a great deal of hard work."

But Hidalgo goes further, honestly, considering why Michel, so versatile a player, hasn't had quite the same success and authority in international as in club football. When he plays for Nantes, Hidalgo says, the play revolves around him. He gives the ball then gets it back. That cannot always happen when he plays for France. So despite his huge versatility, he isn't quite as effective.

That Michel Platini remains the most exciting and magnetic player in French football was given abundant confirmation when he moved up into attack for the match between Nancy and Nice, on the Cote d'Azur, and scored four splendid goals in a devastating 7-3 win by Nancy. His club have little or no chance of the title, in which Nice have been setting the pace, but Platini, quite irresistible, showed that when he is on form he can demolish any defence in our League. And, let us hope, any defence he may meet in the World Cup. There is already said to be interest in his future by Internazionale of Milan.

Dominique Rocheteau, of Saint Etienne and France.

Subbuteo-
the world's greatest football game

Believe it or not, over 5 million boys throughout the world play Subbuteo. Why is Subbuteo so popular? Because it's based on individual skill and it's such great fun to play.

Subbuteo's unique 'flick-to-kick' technique allows you to shoot, tackle, and swerve the ball following all the tactics and rules of real football.

Subbuteo boxed games start with the Display Edition at £3.50. Four other exciting editions are available leading up to the action-packed Stadium Edition at £22.50 with a host of extra accessories to create the big match atmosphere.

Corner kicker with real kicking action.

Subbuteo's unique spring action throw-in figure.

The great thing about Subbuteo is that whatever edition you buy, you can add from a list of over 50 accessories ranging from as little as 25p through to £3.95 for the magnificent new Stadium Grandstand – corner kickers, action goalkeepers, throw-in figures, stadium floodlights and even seated spectators to swell the attendance at your big match. All this plus over 200 teams to choose from.

Believe it or not - over 200 teams to choose from.

Live-action goalkeeper brings realism to the game.

See Subbuteo at your local sports store or toy shop and obtain details of all accessories and team colours in the new big free colour catalogue.

In case of difficulty, please drop us a line.

Subbuteo boxed games start at £3.50 to £22.50.

All prices quoted are recommended selling prices

TABLE SOCCER

Play the world's greatest sport

Subbuteo®

Subbuteo Sports Games Limited
Chiddingstone Causeway, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8JU

IRAN MAP OUT PLANS

IRAN will go to the World Cup finals ranked among the outsiders — but few countries will be better prepared.

The Asian qualifiers are mapping out comprehensive plans for their own squad and arming themselves with detailed breakdowns of their Group Four opposition — Holland, Scotland and Peru.

They already have considerable information about the Scots. Three days before the draw was made, assistant coach Asghar Sharafi arrived in England to study Manchester United's training methods.

But after the draw he was given a second mission — to compile dossiers on the leading Scottish players. Camped at Old Trafford, he had a good start.

Martin Buchan, Lou Macari, Joe Jordan, Stewart Houston and Arthur Albiston came under immediate scrutiny. Across Manchester at Maine Road, he took a close look at City players Asa Hartford and Willie Donachie.

During his three-and-a-half week visit he watched several other probable members of Scotland's squad for Argentina. It's an understatement to say he was impressed.

"They represent the best in British football," he says. "They are fast, skilful, strong and hard-working. Above all they have tremendous determination."

It didn't take Sharafi long to decide Scotland's greatest strength will be in midfield. And of that formidable battalion he singles out Archie Gemmill as the biggest threat.

He enthuses: "That man Gemmill is incredible. He is everywhere, he does everything and he does it well. He is always working and always available. Then when he gets the ball he uses it quickly and effectively.

"He is not a young man and yet he runs around like a 20-year-old. He is an inspiration to everyone around him and I'm sure that will be the case of Argentina. "Hartford is similar to Gemmill, and I rate him second among their midfield players. He is very strong and also has this enthusiasm. Macari is another busy little player and he also gets into good goalscoring positions.

"Don Masson and Bruce Rioch didn't impress me so much, but then I saw them play for Derby on the day Manchester United beat them 4-0. It was United's match and Derby were never really in it. You can't accurately assess a player on one performance."

Jordan, Buchan, Willie Johnston and Kenny Dalglish will also figure highly in the report 34-year-old Sharafi presents to coach Heshmat Mohajerani.

Mohajerani, who has visited Argentina to look at accommodation and training facilities, is likely to watch Scotland in the Home International Championship in May. Trips to Holland and Peru are also planned.

Iran's assistant coach Asghar Sharafa (right) leads a training session

Iran coach Heshmat Mohajerani (second left) and his assistant Asghar Sharafi (on his left)

'We are still young in terms of world football and we respect the British game'

by DERICK ALLSOP (Daily Mail)

"We must prepare as well as we can," said Sharafi. "I was lucky to be in England when the draw was made. Now we know a lot about Scotland. They could do well in Argentina, but if they beat us I think it will only be in the last 20 or 30 minutes, when their stamina should tell."

Strength and stamina are features Sharafi envies in the British game. Having seen Manchester United and City backstage he now knows how these qualities are developed.

Medical

"The training and medical facilities are excellent," he says. "British players are given strength and stamina to match their skills.

"That's why the British game is so much about speed and physical assets. There is a lot of one-touch play, and though I sometimes think there should be more patience, it makes for excitement, and that is what the British fans want.

"We are still young in terms of world football and we respect the British game. That's why I went to England. I hoped to learn and I think I did."

But despite that praise Iran are still likely to play possession football in Argentina. They will flex their muscles in matches against France (home and away), Mexico (home) and hopefully others.

Those matches will help determine whether Hassan Nazari, Iran's outstanding defender, will be given a midfield role in Argentina.

Sharafi explains: "We know Nazari is a very good full-back, but he may be more valuable to us in midfield. He has great ability. We will try him in midfield in the friendly matches and see how it goes."

Those friendlies should also facilitate Hassan Roshan's comeback. The talented little forward missed the climax to Iran's qualification for the finals because of a knee injury. But he has since had a cartilage operation and will soon be back in action.

A new role for Nazari and the rehabilitation of Roshan would be inspirations for Iran. Yet there is an even more exciting prospect for the Iranians — the return of Parvis Gheleechkhani.

Gheleechkhani is unquestionably the finest player the country has ever produced. He left to seek his fortune in American football, but now there is a chance he may be in Iran's World Cup squad.

Sharafi says: "We are trying very hard to get him and are hopeful of succeeding. He would mean a lot to us. He can play anywhere except goal. He is that good."

Whatever happens in Argentina, Mohajerani and Sharafi are still insisting they will leave the national team and return to club football. They are currently being linked with Iran's most popular club, Persepolis, who recently finished runners-up in the Iranian League.

"The pressures are too great in international football," says Sharafi. "If you don't win it is a national disaster. You are always travelling. There's a limit to how much you can take to this sort of life."

Persepolis, Alan Whittle's club, were pipped for the title by Teheran rivals Pas. The clubs met for the deciding match in front of 100,000 fans at the Aryamehr Stadium, and the 0-0 draw was all Pas needed.

1977 RECORDS

		Home					Away				Total				%
	P	W	D	L	G	W	D	L	G	W	D	L	G	
Brazil	13	4	5	0	16-5	3	1	0	10-0	7	6	0	26-5	77
Argentina	11	5	3	1	16-8	1	0	1	5-4	6	3	2	21-12	68
Peru	12	3	0	1	10-5	2	4	2	13-9	5	4	3	23-14	58
Uruguay	9	3	3	1	10-6	0	1	1	1-2	3	4	2	11-8	55
Paraguay	12	3	1	1	7-2	2	1	4	6-11	5	2	5	13-13	50
Chile	8	2	1	1	10-5	1	0	3	1-7	3	1	4	11-12	44
Bolivia	8	2	0	2	4-3	1	1	2	5-16	3	1	4	9-19	44
Ecuador	9	1	1	1	3-3	1	1	4	2-11	2	2	5	5-14	33
Venezuela	5	1	1	1	3-4	0	0	2	0-4	1	1	3	3-8	30
Colombia	6	0	1	3	0-3	0	1	1	1-7	0	2	4	1-10	17

UNBEATEN BRAZIL TOP THE CHART

THERE was more international activity at national team level than usual in South America last year with World Cup preliminary matches preceded by the usual warm-up games and the visit of nine European countries (Bulgaria, Yugoslavia twice, Hungary, Poland, West and East Germany, England, Scotland and France) playing a total of 22 full internationals on the continent.

This is more than usual and the final, but meaningless record was 8 wins, 8 draws, 6 defeats in favour of the South Americans. But no South American team ventured abroad apart from Argentina's quick visit to take part in Real Madrid's 75th anniversary tournament in which they beat Iran on penalties after drawing 1-1.

The 10 South American countries played a total of 60 matches — 33 against each other with 21 of these being World Cup eliminators. Thus, in spite of again playing more at home than away, the competition was a bit tougher than usual which made the respective records (published separately) look not quite so good. But the balance of power is virtually unchanged.

Brazil again takes top rating with an unbeaten record, but they were held to draws at home by Paraguay, West Germany, Yugoslavia, France and England and were sometimes close to defeat, specially against Yugoslavia who had what looked like a good goal disallowed by the Brazilian referee in a 0-0 draw.

Argentina, placed second, did not play Brazil last year, but they met five of the same European rivals within days with similar results against three of them and Brazil having a slight edge against the other two. But I am not attempting to evaluate the relative merits of South America's World Cup finalists as this has been done in other articles. The poor form of the third finalist, Peru, who are third ranked, has also been mentioned. Two of their 12 matches were against Haiti whom they only managed to just beat 2-1 in the first game and were then held 2-2 in the second. Their third place in the table may be correct, but it merely shows up the weakness of all the teams below them.

Once mighty Uruguay continue to slip and their fourth place is false, but seven of their nine matches were played at home and they faced weak opponents apart from West Germany (1-3) and England (0-0)

Venezuela are away from the bottom rung for once and a lot was made of their great improvement after the shock 1-1 World Cup draw at home against ailing Uruguay, but internationally, fielding only Venezuelan born and naturalized players, they are still the poor relations of South American soccer and the only match played outside the World Cup — a 1-0 home win over Ecuador — boosted their record.

Ardiles (8), Luque (9) and Bertoni (7) of Argentina.

LATEST RELEASES

1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
LIVERPOOL 3, BORUSSIA MGB 1

In SUPER 8 as follows

200ft reel b/w silent	£6.00
200ft reel col silent	£13.00
200ft reel col sound	£16.40
300ft reel b/w silent	£8.50
300ft reel col silent *	£18.60
300ft reel col sound	£25.00

1977 F.A. CUP FINAL
MAN. UTD 2 LIVERPOOL 1

In SUPER 8 as follows

200ft reel b/w silent	£6.00
200ft reel col silent	£13.00
200ft reel col sound	£16.40

Add 30p post & packing

1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
ASTON VILLA 3 EVERTON 2

In SUPER 8 as follows

200ft reel B/E sil	£6.00
200ft reel Col sil	£13.00
200ft reel Col sound	£16.40

1977 INTERNATIONAL
ENGLAND 0 HOLLAND 2

In SUPER 8 as follows

200ft reel B/W sil	£6.00
200ft reel Col sil	£13.00
200ft reel Col sound	£16.40
400ft reel Col sound	£31.50

1976 EURO NATIONS CUP
Czechoslovakia 7, West Germany 5

In SUPER 8 as follows:

400ft reel b/w silent	£11.20
400ft reel col silent	£28.00
400ft reel b/w sound	£18.65
400ft reel col sound	£31.50

GIANTS OF BRAZIL

Action-packed highlights from film archives trace the colourful World Cup history of Brazil from 1938 up to 1970.

Available in Super 8

400ft reel b/w silent	£11.20
400ft reel b/w sound	£18.65

SOCCER FILMS

8MM HOME MOVIES

Relive great moments of soccer, thrill again to the great goalscorers on your own 8mm projector. The world's biggest range of home movie FA and League Cup Finals, World Cup, European Cup and International games. Films produced and edited to include all goals from TV and newsreel coverage. Send 40p for brochure of full range; or payment with order for any examples given below.

PRICES:
SILENT: 50ft b/w £1.90, colour £4.45; 100ft b/w £3.50, colour £7.60; 150ft b/w £4.45, colour £10.45; 200ft b/w £6.00; colour £13.00; 400ft b/w £11.20, colour £28.00
SOUND: 200ft colour £16.40; 400ft b/w £18.65; 400ft colour £31.50.

SEE BELOW FOR B/W REELS AVAILABLE
* DENOTES WHERE COLOUR VERSION ALSO AVAILABLE

IMPORTANT: All films available in Super 8, enquire for Standard 8 if required. State gauge of projector on each order. Note that 50ft, 100ft, 200ft and 400ft refers to reel size, not exact length of film.

ADD 30p PER FILM FOR ORDERS IN U.K. AND EIRE

FA CUP FINALS

*1975 Southampton 1, Man. Utd 0	200ft
*1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0	200ft
*1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0	200ft
*1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0	200ft
1973 Semi: Sunderland 2, Arsenal 1	50ft
1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0	100ft
*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0	100ft
*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1	200ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2	100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1	100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0	100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0	200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1	200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff Wed 2	300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1	200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2	200ft
1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1	200ft
1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1	100ft
1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0	100ft
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1	100ft
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd 0	100ft
1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd 1	100ft
1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3	100ft
1954 to 1956 also available	100ft

WORLD CUP*

*1974 W. Germany 2, Holland 1	200ft
*1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2	200ft
*1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0	200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0	200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Bulgaria 1	200ft
*1974 Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0	200ft
*1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1	200ft
Above films also available in 400ft b/w and colour sound.	
400ft b/w and colour sound	
*1970 Brazil 4, Italy 1	200ft
*1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3	200ft
*1970 England 2, W. Germany 3	200ft
*1970 England 2, W. Germany 2	200ft & 400ft
*1966 England 4, W. Germany 2	200ft & 400ft
Also colour sound	200ft
1966 England 2, Portugal 1	200ft
1966 Hungary 3, Brazil 1	200ft
1966 Korea 3, Portugal 5	200ft
(1962, 1958 and 1954 WORLD CUPS also available)	

OVERSEAS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Films and records supplied to soccer fans throughout the world. Despatch charges quoted on request. Send inquiries to OVERSEAS CUSTOMER SERVICE, at address given below.

NEW SILENT MOVIE PROJECTOR OFFER

£19.50

If you haven't got a movie projector, then start your own soccer films library with this fabulous offer. Electrically operated, automatic threading. Shows Super 8 movies on 50ft, 100ft and 200ft reels. Operating instructions supplied. Add £1.00 post and packing. Shows B/W & Colour silent films.
HANGING SCREEN. Available at £3.50 extra. Add 50p post and packing.

EUROPEAN CUP

1976 B. Munich 1, St. Etienne 0	200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w and colour sound	
* 1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0	150ft
1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0	200ft
1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0	100ft
1970 Feyenoord 2, Celtic 1	200ft
1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1	200ft
1968 Man. Utd 4, Benfica 1	200ft/400ft
1968 Man. Utd 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final)	200ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1	200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd 5, Benfica 1	200ft
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1	200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3	200ft/400ft

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

1963 Spurs 5, Atl. Madrid 1	200ft
1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0	200ft

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

* 1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1	200ft
* 1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0	100ft
* 1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1	100ft
1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0	100ft
1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1	200ft
1971 Spurs 2, Aston Villa 0	50ft
1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2	200ft

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1968 Newcastle 3, Man. City 4	200ft

INTERNATIONALS

1976 Scotland 2, England 1	200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w sound	
1975 England 5, Scotland 1	200ft
also 400ft b/w sound	
1975 Five goal Super Mac	200ft
also 400ft b/w sound	
1969 England 4, Scotland 1	200ft
1967 Scotland 3, England 2	400ft
1963 Hungary 6, England 3	100ft
also 100ft b/w sound £5.06	

SPECIALS

PELE — Prince of Soccer	£200ft
SIX GOAL HURST	50ft
SIX GOAL BEST	50ft

SCOTTISH CUP-FINALS

1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1	200ft/400ft
Also 400ft b/w sound	
* 1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2	200ft
* 1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1	100ft

SOCCER RECORD ALBUMS

£2.95 each (including postage and pkg)

Commentary highlights edited from BBC RADIO broadcasts where available. Special containers used for postal despatch

NEW RELEASE

1977 F.A. CUP FINAL

Relive this moment of sheer magic as Man. Utd beat Liverpool 2-1 to win the Jubilee F.A. Cup Final — a match that will rank as one of Wembley's classics.

1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

In a breathtaking replay at Old Trafford, Aston Villa beat Everton 3-2 to win the longest Cup Final in history and complete a hat-trick of victories in the competition.

NEW RELEASE

1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL

BBC commentators recapture Liverpool's day of glory in Rome as they become champions of Europe with a 3-1 win over Borussia MGB of Germany.

1976 EUFA CUP — Liverpool v Bruges
1976 FA CUP FINAL — Super Saints!
1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL — Man. City v Newcastle
1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND — Rangers v Hearts
1975 F.A. CUP FINAL — Hail to The Hammers!
1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL — Viva The Villa!
1974 FA CUP FINAL — Liverpool's Cup
1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL — Wonderful Wolves!
1973 FA CUP FINAL — Sunderland's Cup
1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL — Spurs v Norwich
1972 FA CUP FINAL — Leeds v Arsenal
1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL — Salute to Stoke!
1971 FA CUP FINAL — Arsenal v Liverpool
1971 EURO CUP WINNERS — Chelsea v R. Madrid
1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL — Spurs v Aston Villa
1970 FA CUP FINAL — Chelsea's Cup
1966/70 WORLD CUP — Finals & Semi-Finals
1968 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL — Man. Utd v Benfica
CELTIC SOUVENIR — Famous Celtic victories

Send all order and inquiries to

QUALITY PRODUCTS (Romford) LIMITED
Dept. FM41, 43 Victoria Road, Romford
Essex RM1 2DD Tel. Romford 28413

ANOTHER MULLER FOR

The main interest before the clash with England — always a prestige affair to the Germans — will centre on the two "vacant" positions in the team. As I already reported in *World Soccer*, manager Schön's only problem concerns one midfield player and the left winger.

As the game is in Munich it could be Karl-Heinz Rummenigge from the local Bayern club. He was the star of the 2-1 win over Italy, but disgraced himself by being sent off in a League match against local rivals 1860 Munich. Subsequently he was suspended for eight weeks and thus was not considered for both the games against Switzerland and Wales.

The man chosen to replace him, Rudi Seliger, had to cry off through injury at the last moment, so that Schön was forced to fall back on that old "work horse" Bernd Hölzenbein. In midfield many Germans would already like to see the brilliant young schemer Hansi Müller (20) from VfB Stuttgart, who has already played for the B-team and is regarded as one of the greatest discoveries in German football.

But whether Helmut Schön will risk the youngster in a prestigious international is debatable. Manfred Burgsmüller (Borussia Dortmund) has not quite lived up to expectations lately, so perhaps another chance will be given to either Beer, or Bongartz, or even Neumann.

The efforts to obtain the release of Franz Beckenbauer have probably been in vain. The DFB had suggested to New York Cosmos that they would offer them the usual fee they pay German clubs for a player on international duty, which is £1,250 per match. But this was thought to be unacceptable to the American club.

Yes, Cosmos were willing to release Beckenbauer, but only for the duration of the World Cup — not for the preparations prior to the squad's departure for Argentina, as well.

The same experience made 1860 Munich, if under different circumstances withdraw. The club wanted to engage Beckenbauer during the winter months, when there is no football in America. But their application to the DFB was rejected when officials explained that in accordance with their rules a player who is under contract to one club, cannot play for another. Those footballers who have been "commuting" between the U.S. and Europe had signed separate contracts allowing them to play for two clubs.

Beckenbauer was quite willing to appear for Munich 1860, the club he always wanted to join, even as a schoolboy — but he went to Bayern instead!

The big surprise of the DFB-Cup quarter-finals was the 2-1 defeat of champions Borussia Mönchengladbach by lowly Werder Bremen, whose manager Hans Tilkowski had left the club only a few hours earlier! Six Bundesliga clubs have changed managers this season: MSV Duisburg, Hamburger SV, Eintracht Frankfurt, Bayern Munich, Schalke and Werder Bremen. Tilkowski, the former World Cup goalkeeper (1966), was the 78th team coach to leave since the foundation of the National League in 1963.

The engagement of Günter Netzer as general manager of Hamburg has raised speculation as to the future of Kevin Keegan. Some reports, in the British Press, have suggested that Netzer wants to keep Keegan, following rumours that New York Cosmos were about to make a bid, but these stories are without foundation.

THE GERMAN Press, Radio and Television commentators, managers, players and fans have never been so unanimous in their verdict, as after the World Cup draw was made in Buenos Aires: "We have hit the jackpot and are virtually certain to reach the last eight."

West Germany are in Group II with Poland, who finished third in the last competition, but who are no longer the force they were in Germany four years ago; Mexico, who away from their feared high altitude at home are nowhere near as strong and with Tunisia, who on their debut in the World Cup finals are hardly capable of creating a major upset on the far off South American continent, where they'll find conditions totally alien to them.

The Germans have never lost a match to either Poland, or Mexico and they have never met Tunisia. In ten games against the Poles the Germans won seven and drew three, with a goal tally of 19-6. Against Mexico they achieved one win and two draws in three meetings (goals 7-2).

Optimism in West Germany is further strengthened by the fine record of the side over the past twelve months. The national team played eleven matches, winning seven, drawing three and losing only the first one to France (0-1). Goals 23-9. In fact since they won the world title in 1974, the Germans have only been beaten by the French and by England (2-0 at Wembley, in March 1975).

In those 11 games in 1977 manager Helmut Schön used 26 players, including eight newcomers. Only captain Berti Vogts and Rainer Bonhof played in every match. The new centre forward sensation, Klaus Fischer, scored 11 goals in the nine internationals he played. Flohe and Dieter Müller got three goals apiece. Bonhof hit two (both penalties), one goal each was scored by Kaltz, Rummenigge and Hölzenbein, plus an own goal by the Swiss Meyer. The 11 games were watched by 633,000 (!) spectators, of whom alone 150,000 saw the 1-1 draw with Brazil in Rio de Janeiro last June.

The Germans are still highly rated, as a poll conducted by the well-known agency ISK (Internationale Sport-Korrespondenz) has shown. In their ranking list for 1977 the West Germans are placed second to Brazil — who are unbeaten in the last 31 internationals!

West Germany's next test will be against England in Munich on February 22. The day before, the B-teams of these countries will meet at Augsburg's Rosenau stadium. It will

The World Cup draw taking place in Argentina.

R ENGLAND?

In the first place, Netzer hadn't even started work at Hamburg, even though his appointment was confirmed on January 8. He then flew to Argentina and from there joined his club Grasshoppers Zurich, with whom he went on an American tour, so he wasn't back in Hamburg to start his duties till February 8.

Netzer has certainly made no official statement on Keegan's position in Hamburg, beyond saying that he would like to keep all the players of HSV until the end of the season. With regard to Keegan's eight-week suspension — it was also quite inaccurate to suggest that a sending-off in Germany carries an automatic eight-week ban by the DFB. Keegan got eight weeks for deliberately punching an opponent. But Wolfgang Kraus, of Eintracht Frankfurt, for instance, who was sent off for repeated foul play, was only banned for four weeks.

The Cup final on April 15 will be featuring those Rhineland neighbours, Cologne, the holders, who eliminated Werder Bremen 1-0, and Fortuna Düsseldorf, 4-1 winners over MSV Duisburg in the semi-finals.

be the first match for an England B-side for 21 years!

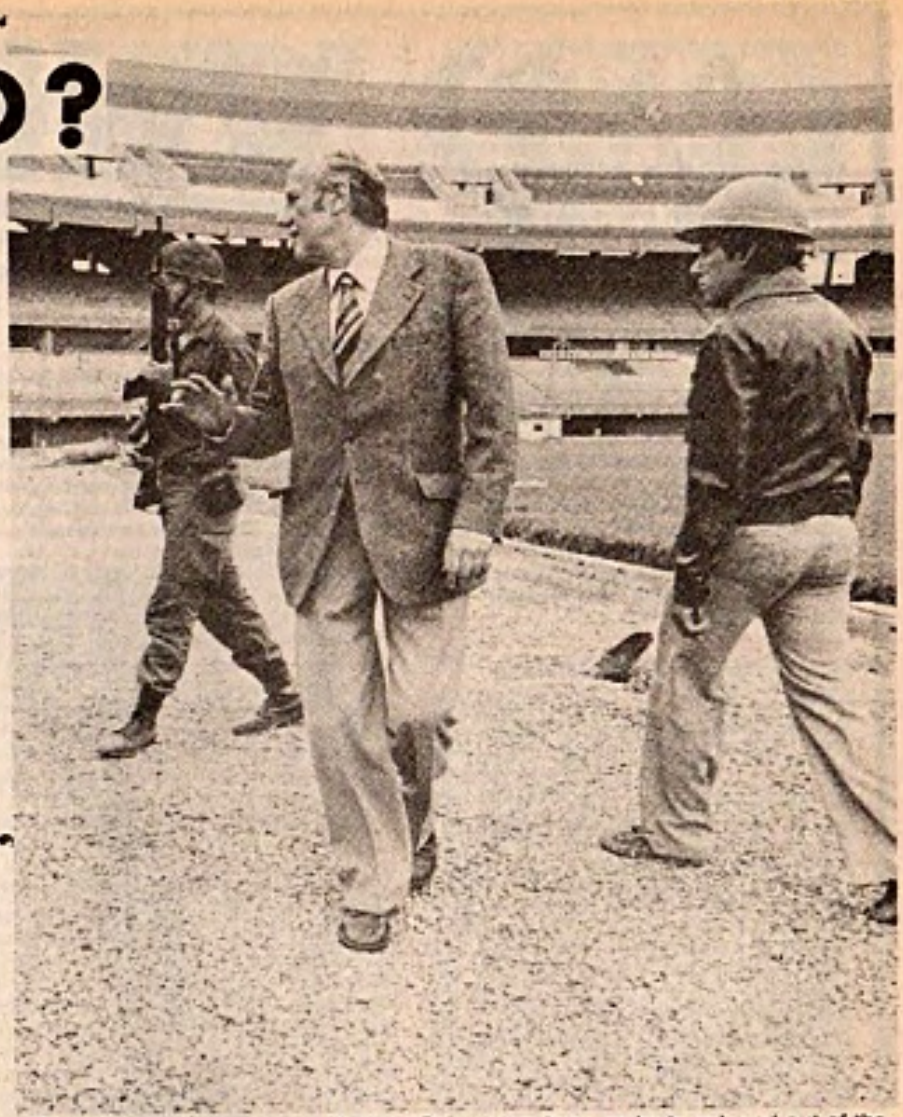
England played 19 B-internationals between May 1949 and February 1957, winning ten and losing five. But these matches were dropped on the introduction of the Under-23 programme, which itself has been replaced by Under-21 games.

The West Germans have been using their B-fixtures to try out other candidates for the full national side, because unlike England they have never run either an Under-23, or Under-21 side.

Advantage

England's new manager Ron Greenwood has one advantage over the German chief: He has seen their team twice this season — against Italy (2-1) and Wales (1-1), whilst Helmut Schön has not been able to inspect the England eleven which received such glowing praise from their own press after the win over Italy.

In the West German team there shouldn't be many changes from the side which only drew with Wales. It is certainly a pointer to manager Schön's selection, when one looks at the squad of 25 he picked to be medically tested as candidates for the journey to the World Cup finals in Argentina. This is the line up which was thoroughly examined by specialists in Cologne: Maier, Schwarzenbeck, Rummenigge (all Bayern Munich), Kargus, Kaltz and Volkert (Hamburger SV), Seliger and Dietz (MSV Duisburg), Hölzenbein (Eintracht Frankfurt), Beer (Hertha Berlin), Franke (Eintracht Brunswick), Burgsmüller (Borussia Dortmund), Seel (Fortuna Düsseldorf), Tenhagen (VfL Bochum), Burdenski (Werder Bremen), Rüssmann, Fischer, Abramczik and Bongartz (Schalke), Vogts and Bonhof (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Flohe, Dieter Müller, Zimmermann and Neumann (Cologne).



West German team manager Helmut Schoen gestures as he is ushered out of the River Plate stadium playing area by armed Argentine soldiers after they had interrupted an interview for German TV.

WORLD CUP DRAW—WE'VE HIT THE JACKPOT!

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

WHO'S

WORLD SOCCER presents the second featuring players likely to make an impa — F to K — Facchetti to Krol.

GIACINTO FACCHETTI (Italy)

If everything goes well for the Internazionale veteran, Italy's sweeper and captain could become in Argentina the first Italian to top 100 international appearances. After that the 35-year-old from Treviglio has already stated that he intends to retire and concentrate on a career in coaching. Not that Facchetti, despite his reputation, can yet be certain of his place in Italy's first team after nearly two months inactive first because of injury then because of a dispute with Inter coach Bersellini. Facchetti was introduced for his league debut by Helenio Herrera in 1960-61 as an attacking left back and soon established himself as one of the world's best, scoring many important goals including the one which beat Liverpool in the 1965 Champions Cup semi-finals. Facchetti was still Italy's left back for the 1970 World Cup Final defeat by Brazil, but then extended his career by switching to the less exacting task of sweeper after the ill-starred 1974 finals in West Germany.

KLAUS FISCHER (West Germany)

This is the 28-year-old who has had to take on the awesome role of trying to make West Germany forget about Gerd Müller. But his facility in the penalty box suggests that if Fischer may not be a second Müller, he will certainly do a more than useful job. Yet Fischer only made his international debut a year ago after five years in the wilderness because of the Bundesliga bribes scandal involving his club, Schalke. Fischer was among players implicated in throwing a match in 1971 — his first season with Schalke, and in which he had been their top scorer. Before that the glass-blower from Bavaria was turned down by Borussia Moenchengladbach, but then did well with TSV 1860 Munich, until their relegation, when he joined Schalke. He marked his international debut with two goals in a 5-0 win over Northern Ireland, then hit five out of eight in West Germany's South American tour last summer.

HUGO GATTI (Argentina)

The 33-year-old goalkeeper was Boca Juniors' hero last year, for it was his penalty save which brought the Buenos Aires club the South American club cup at the expense of holders Cruzeiro of Brazil. And with his long hair, baggy shorts and sweatband round his head, Gatti is one of the outstanding personalities of Argentine soccer. Originally a centre forward, he was persuaded by a brother to turn to goalkeeping, and made his name with River Plate. He came to England in 1966 as World Cup third choice but didn't play, and on his return home was transferred to Atlanta. Here he changed his style, cutting out the spectacular frills and concentrating on efficiency, and the result was a second transfer, to Boca, long one of South America's biggest clubs. He helped them win the national and metropolitan championships in 1976, then the South American title last year despite a troublesome knee injury. This forced him to miss several internationals – including the 1-1 draw with England – and think briefly about premature retirement.

RONNIE HELLSTRÖM (Sweden)

Now the only top-class Swede playing abroad, Hellström has been with Kaiserslautern in West Germany since the summer of 1974, joining them after a superb campaign in the World Cup Finals. But that was a marked contrast to four years before, when Hellström was one of Sweden's scapegoats after presenting Italy with a soft goal in an important firs round game. Hellström was then playin for Hammarby, working part-time as buying director in the clothing firm run b the club's president. But it had alway been his ambition to play professiona football and he jumped at th Kaiserslautern offer. Ironically, had h waited until after the 1974 Finals befor signing he could probably hav negotiated a much better initial contrac On the other hand, after 1970 who ca blame him for not taking any chances?

Hugo Gatti of Argentina.

RENE HOUSEMAN (Argentina)

Benefited recently from a most unusua bonus system. After running into poo form following a contract dispute with hi club, Huracan, Houseman's fans go together to raise some cash themselve to pay him a special bonus every time h scored. Now he's back in form reminiscent of his 1974 World Cu explosion! Still only 24, Houseman was a protege of Argentine manager Cesa Menotti at Huracan, and Anderlecht o Belgium at one time made a reputed £300,000 offer. But Houseman was already on the Argentine FA's list o 'untouchables' — not that he has been a regular member of the international team. For example, he missed most of las summer's internationals because of a club suspension. A clever winger at first, now developing into an all-round forward, Houseman's best match in the 1974 Finals was against Italy, when he took the *catenaccio* defence apart though Argentina earned only a draw. After that match Houseman decided to have his shoulder-length hair trimmed short and, like Samson, seemed to lose his strength, being relegated to substitute for later games.

KURT JARA (Austria)

The World Cup draw came as a pleasant surprise for the 27-year-old soccer mercenary who first shot to fame with Wacker Innsbrück. For he joined his present German club, MSV Duisburg, only after two years in Spain with Valencia, and Spain are in Austria's World Cup group. Jara, Austria's midfield star, thinks that the cooler Austrians will have an advantage in temperament over the Spaniards — and he should know. Jara played well in Spain, and it was only the fact that Valencia grabbed at the chance of signing Johnny Rep which forced them to release him under the two-foreigners rule. The fans were soon complaining at the absence of his subtle promptings. He had trained as an electrician, but has now played more than 30 times for Austria, and had a considerable guiding role in their return to the World Cup Finals after a 20-year absence.

S WHO

Argentina '78

l of the four-part series by KEIR RADNEDGE
ct in the World Cup Finals. This month: Part 2

WILLIE JOHNSTON (Scotland)

Cost West Bromwich Albion £140,000 when they signed him from Glasgow Rangers in November 1972, and he brought with him a doubtful disciplinary reputation. He had been sent off four times in senior Scottish soccer and his transfer took place while he was serving a nine-week suspension. Yet only six months before he had scored twice and made the third goal in Rangers' 3-2 Cup-winners' Cup win over Moscow Dynamo in that infamous match in Barcelona. Johnston has suffered a couple more expulsions since moving, and after taking a while to settle – the fact that West Brom were struggling when he signed didn't help – by last season he had re-established himself as one of the liveliest wingers around and was back in Scotland's team. It was his elusive brilliance on the left wing which destroyed Czechoslovakia and Wales in important qualifiers and sends him back to Argentina – where he was sent off unfortunately in Scotland's 1-1 draw last summer.

JOE JORDAN (Scotland)

Went on Scotland's South American tour last summer as Leeds' centre forward, but will return in June as Manchester United's £350,000 capture. His transfer ended several years of boring speculation after Jordan first attracted interest from abroad after Leeds reached the 1975 Champions' Cup Final. They lost to Bayern Munich in a game Jordan remembers as his most disappointing, but his ability in the air — in South America they consider him the best in the world — immediately interested Bayern. They were among several clubs, including Ajax and Anderlecht, to tentatively approach Leeds, but a series of injuries put them off and it was United who finally stepped in this January. Jordan had played only 13 first team games for Leeds when Scotland first called him up in 1972, and his power in the air has always presented problems abroad. His first goal for Leeds was against Barcelona in the play-off to decide which club should keep the old Fairs Cup. Jordan led Scotland's attack in the 1974 World Cup.

JUANITO (Spain)

This 22-year-old outside right, Real Madrid's successor to retired veteran Amancio, was originally on the books of neighbours and rivals Atletico Madrid. But his spell there was disastrous. He broke a leg, was sent off a couple of times after returning to fitness, and fell foul of the coaching staff. So, sure he wouldn't make the grade, Atletico passed him off to second division Burgos. But Juanito had learned his lesson. His goals shot Burgos into the first division, and himself into Spain's team for the World Cup qualifiers. Real and Barcelona were so impressed by his tricky footwork and sharp-shooting they made immediate offers and it seemed Juanito was set for Barcelona. But after some inopportune remarks about the Catalan club, Juanito found that Barcelona had pulled out of the deal and the way was clear for Real to pick him up. Remarkably he asked Real for a pay rise as soon as he joined them, claiming that when the deal was agreed in midseason Burgos were bottom of the table, but a couple of months later, thanks to his goals, had reached safety — so he must be worth even more than originally agreed! His real name is Juan Gomez — Juanito is a nickname.

MANFRED KALTZ (West Germany)

West German manager Helmut Schoen was the man responsible for raising the 25-year-old Hamburg defender to the status of probable successor to Franz Beckenbauer as the world champions' sweeper. For Kaltz was generally thought of as a right back, and even he was surprised when Schoen picked him for the Beckenbauer role after Kaiser Franz abdicated and took off for the United States. Kaltz took to his new job like a duck to water at first, but his form suffered with Hamburg's reversals earlier this season, and Schoen was forced to experiment with several other men in the free-back role. Hamburg had continued to play Kaltz at right back in taking the Cup-winners' Cup from Anderlecht last year. Kaltz, who joined Hamburg at 19 from VfL Neuhofer, has won 12 senior caps, seven amateur, three B and also played for the youth and under-23 sides.

MARIO KEMPES (Argentina)

Kempes learned his football the same way as so many other South American stars, kicking a tin can around in the streets near his home in the little Argentine provincial town of Bell Ville. Now 23, he has shot to fame with remarkable force in just the past five years. At 19 he joined Rosario Central and made such an impression at centre forward that Argentina picked him for an important World Cup qualifier in the high-altitude Bolivian capital of La Paz in 1973. He earned a place in the 1974 World Cup squad with two goals against England in the Wembley friendly on the way to West Germany and was Argentina's top scorer with 29 goals that year, and with 35 the next. Rosario were then in no position to refuse a £340,000 offer from Spain's Valencia, and in his first season in Spain he was the country's top scorer with 24 goals. He is the one Argentine exile who seems sure of a place in the World Cup squad — even though Valencia aren't prepared to release him until just before the finals.

HANS KRANKL (Austria)

Scorer of 17 goals in 19 games at the time of writing, Krankl looks well on the way to again proving himself the top marksman in Austria — as he was with 32 goals last season. And what a year that was for the tall centre forward from Rapid Vienna! For, apart from his successes in the league, Krankl hit six goals in the 9-0 World Cup win over Malta. But it wasn't all glory for the man whose 36 goals in 1974 made him runner-up for the Golden Boot award. In the vital qualifier against East Germany in Vienna, with Austria needing a win, Krankl put the ball in the net for what seemed the winner with eight minutes to go. Instead Welsh referee Tom Reynolds disallowed it because one of Krankl's team-mates had been standing offside, and in the melee that followed, Krankl's protests earned him the red card. Still only 24, Krankl has long been coveted by Dutch and German sides, and it's hard to imagine that he'll stay long with Rapid when the World Cup is over.

RUUD KROL (Holland)

Krol, captain of Ajax and now their sweeper, started his career as a central defender, but was converted to left back by Rinus Michels soon after joining the Amsterdam club. Later it was Michels who moved Krol back to his original position when the Ajax empire started to fall apart and a steadying influence was needed. Krol joined Ajax at 19, and was in the Dutch national team after playing only 10 league games. That debut was in a 1-0 defeat by England, and he has since appeared in nearly 50 more games – including all Holland's qualifying and Finals matches in the 1974 World Cup and all their matches when they finished third in the 1976 European championship. He's the only one of their players able to make that proud boast. Played in Ajax's Champions' Cup-winning teams in 1972 and 1973, but missed the 1971 victory after breaking a leg shortly before the final against Panathinaikos.

Next month: Part 3 – Lato to Pirri.

Last bastion of amateur football set to tumble

BY THE time this edition of *World Soccer* is being published, the Dansk Boldspil Union — Denmark's football association — will probably have taken the decision to bring down Europe's last bastion of true amateur soccer.

The pressure of many years has finally built up into a movement powerful enough to bring some form of professional football to the nation who, after the British associations, dominated the sport in the early years of this century.

Not that the Danes are calling the new movement 'professional' football. 'Non-amateur' is the title officially. And what it means is that Denmark, if not exactly joining the big league, may be able to stand up for themselves rather more significantly in world competition.

But what it also means is that the Danes, for so long the helpless suppliers of top-class talent to Italy, Holland and West Germany, will now find it a little easier to persuade members of their foreign legion home and will also be looking to other markets to fill the gaps left by the emigrants such as Allan Simonsen (Borussia Moenchengladbach), Henning Jensen (Borussia, then Real Madrid) and Per Roentved (Werder Bremen).

One of the targets for the senior clubs hoping to make a good start in the non-amateur league is British soccer. The Danes could soon be providing competition with the United States for those British players who, on the fringe of a first division team or settled in the second division, fancy a career abroad.

Sven Petersen, president of Frem Copenhagen and chairman of the senior clubs' committee, told me: "Many of our clubs are very interested in British players. We can offer reasonable terms and there is little language problem because many people in Denmark speak English."

Wages of £12,000-£15,000 after tax will be the basic for such imports, the only problem being transfer fees. Though the Danes' transition is being run through on the back of a £250,000 sponsorship injection from lager giant, Carlsberg, half will go in incentive prizes for successful teams and goalscorers and the rest to the DBU to help run training and coaching courses and enable the national team to make internationals worthwile for the likes of Simonsen, Jensen and Co.

So though the clubs are busily preparing sponsorship deals of their own, there won't be a lot of money available to pay for players, and they will be relying on the free transfer market.

Probably British players interested in Denmark might be more suited to a player-manager's job — and the Danes have seen in recent years how men such as Tony Knapp, Bob Houghton and Roy Hodgson have worked with success in the Nordic countries.

They may also remember the success Jimmy Magill, the former Arsenal and Irish full back, had at the turn of the 1970s when he took B1909 of Copenhagen to promotion to the first division and then the cup in successive seasons.

Then again, there will always be a strong affinity between Danish and British football because of the beginnings of soccer there. It was in 1879 that the seed was planted — in three places. First the new KB sports club of Copenhagen, founded to play a version of rounders just three years before, decided to take to football; at the same time the English residents founded the Football Club of Copenhagen; and an English boy at the much-respected Sörö Akademi college received a football as a present and introduced the game to his class-mates.

The game soon caught on, and indeed Ludvig Sylow, first a player then chairman of KB, was Denmark's representative when FIFA was founded in 1904.

The first official match had taken place in 1883, when Birkerud School beat KB's junior team 3-0, while KB's senior beat a Navy team 8-0. And in 1884 a knock-out cup competition was launched with 15 teams involved. The clubs paid 3s 6d each (17½p) for a set of medals, and KB walked off with the prize, having scored 40 goals and conceded none in their four games.

In 1889 the DBU was set up and nine years later came the first tour of a British team, Scotland's Queen's Park. The stunned KB both with their facility in scoring, but also with the short-passing game which in Britain was superceding the old 'forward rush' tactics.

Queen's Park were invited back in 1900, and this time the Danes thought they would be ready for them, forming a Copenhagen select, called Staevnet. The Scots still won 5-1 and 8-1 before a record 5,000 crowd, but it wasnt the end of Staevnet. The Copenhagen Selection team would even appear sixty years later in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

Staevnet was at this time a child of circumstance, but it was officially launched in 1903, the idea of soccer pioneer Johannes Gandil of Boldklub 1893 when English club Southampton demanded a £100 fee for a tour of Denmark.

These tours were very popular, and later Newcastle, Huddersfield and Arsenal all helped inspire the young Danes — among them Charles Buchwald (Akademik Boldklub), Axel Andersen (Frem Copenhagen) and the four Middleboe brothers — Einar, Kristian, Hans and Nils — of KB.

Nils, later Chelsea centre-half for nine years and a very good one, made his senior debut in a 6-1 defeat by touring Newcastle. He then played inside left, with his brother Einar and Kristian at wing half. The Middleboes were a family of all-round sportsmen and when Nils moved to London, to work in a City banking firm, he not only played for Chelsea but picked up several local tennis titles!

Another prominent soccer family were the Forchhammers — Herfof, Hölger and Jörgs, as well as Harold and Niels Bohr. And Denmark established their claim to be the first foreign country to master association football in beating Sweden 14-0 and 15-0 in 1905. The first victory over the English was 8-1 and 6-1 against Ilford Amateurs that same year, and in 1907 came the first victory over a British professional team, when Celtic lost 2-1 to Staevnet.

Already they made their mark in international competition, winning the 'Intermediate' Olympics in Athens in 1906 — though the facts look far less impressive when you realise that they had only to beat three poor Greek teams to do so.

Still, in 1908, coached by the former Manchester City and Tottenham goalkeeper Charlie Williams, Denmark reached the final of the Olympics proper in London, before losing 2-0 to Britain in the final. The British team included Vivian Woodward, while the Danes's best player were Bohr, Buchwald and Nils Middleboe.

In 1912, at the Stockholm Olympics, the result was repeated, Britain first, Denmark runners-up. Though this time the final was one-sided. The Danes had to play most of the time with 10 men after Buchwald dislocated a shoulder, and Britain, 4-0 up at half-time, relaxed in the second half. The Danes hit back to score twice, but the result was flattering.

In 1913, KB won the first Danish championship and in 1914 a record crowd of 20,000 saw Denmark beat England's amateurs 3-0, some sort of revenge for the Olympic disappointments.

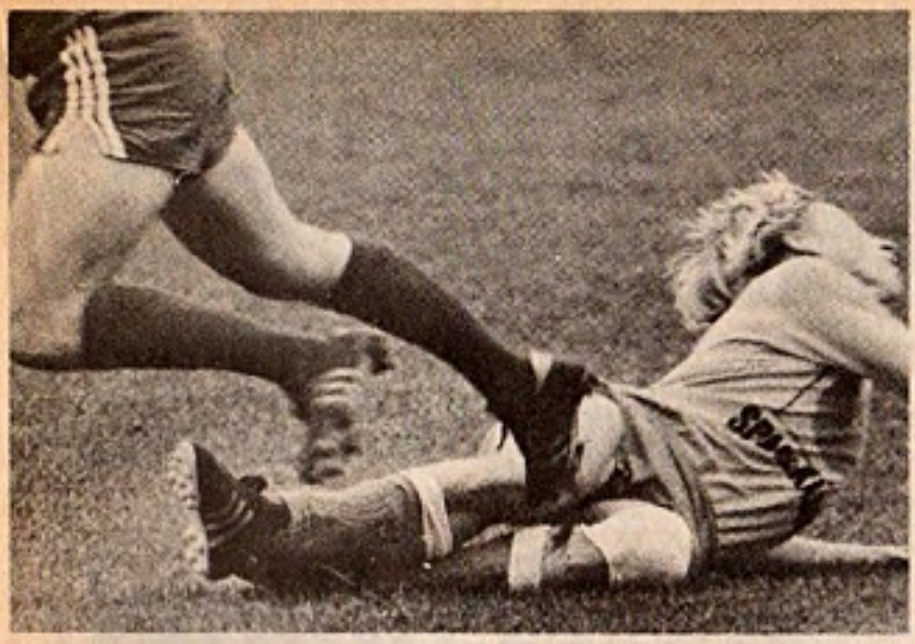
But the first world war marked a watershed in Danish football history. Afterwards professionalism would soon establish itself in Austria, Italy and Spain as well as South America, and the Danes would be left behind.

The now-familiar drain of talent began as early as 1921, when Glasgow Rangers were so impressed with B1903 goalkeeper Carl Hensen that they took him back to Scotland for three years. They were so pleased with him that when he returned home he did so with his return fare paid as well as an extra year's pay in his pocket!

The price of foreign tours increased. Huddersfield, with Alex Jackson and Clem Stephenson in 1928, were paid £1,300 for three games, though they played a fourth free of charge after game No. 3 was ruined by bad weather.

Elsewhere, the World Cup was launched and went ahead without Denmark. Their milieu, they felt, was the Olympics, though it wasn't until 1948 that they re-established themselves briefly. In the London Olympics Denmark beat their hosts 5-3 in the third place match. Their team was outstanding —

PRO SC
FOR DE



An horrific picture from Denmark on a Danish player, Anders Hjortshoj, breaking his leg during an amateur game

OCCER
ENMARK

and the foreign scouts preying around the tournament weren't slow to move in.

Suddenly the inside forward trio of Karl-Aage Hansen, Carl Praest, and John Hansen had been spirited away to Italy. Right back Viggo Jensen even played later in England for Hull and Huddersfield. But it was the other three who paved the way for so many Danes — 200 up to now! — to be tempted into professional soccer.

In 1950 John Hansen scored 28 goals to lift his new club Juventus to the Italian league title. Praest had gone with him, and Karl Hansen joined them in the championship-winning team of 1952. This time John Hansen was the Italian league's top scorer with 30 goals from 36 of Juve's 38 games.

A few years later and the lively winger Leschly Sorensen earned a place at outside right in the Rest of Europe team who beat Britain 4-1 in Belfast. Sorensen was then starring with Italian champions Milan. The world of amateur Danish soccer must have seemed light years away to him. For example, that year, 1955, was the one which saw them tentatively reintrodue a knock-out competition!

Aarhus were the winners.

After the 1948 Olympics the Danes had quit the competition, upset about the state amateurs of eastern Europe, and also by the raids made by predatory foreign clubs. Only the occasional outstanding player, such as inside forward Knut Lundberg had resisted the temptation to go abroad, and that grumpy attitude persisted until the Danes returned for a crack at the Olympic title in 1960, in Rome.

This time the Danes had two more outstanding players soon bound to return to Italy with league clubs there, wing half Flemming Nielsen, nad centre forward Harald Nielsen, no relation.

Yugoslavia were out-and-out favourites for the Olympics, but by the time Denmark had reached the final against them, the Slavs weren't so confident. In their opening group matches Denmark beat Argentina 3-2, Poland 2-1, and Tunisia 3-1. Harald scored twice in each game against strong opponents — the Poles, for instance, included Ernst Pol and Eduard Zientara in their team. (Tunisia, incidentally, had at centre forward a man named Majid Chetali, who is now about to lead them into the World Cup Finals).

In the semi-finals the Danes faced Hungary, and a Hungarian team including well-known young stars in wing half Erno Solymosi, Florian Albert, Janos Göröcs and Gyula Rakosi. One goal from each of the Nielsens settled it — 2-0. But the final was a different story. Even though Yugoslavia had a man sent off by Italian referee Concetto Lo Bello, the Danes were outplayed.

Milan Galic, Zeljko Matus and veteran Bora Kostic scored for Yugoslavia; Flemming Nielsen for Denmark.

The two Nielsens were quickly snapped up. Flemming went to Atalanta, where he spent most of his time playing defensive wing half with an inside forward's jersey, while Harald turned into a major force with Fulvio Bernardini's Bologna.

Like John Hansen before him, Harald Nielsen had been a Frem player, leaving them in 1961 as the league's top scorer with 19 goals, for a career which reached a peak in 1964 when Bologna beat Internazionale, the newly-crowned European champions, in a play-off to win the Italian league title. With 21 goals Nielsen was the league's top scorer.

He was fortunate to have hard-working Italian Giacomo Bulgarelli and effervescent West German Helmut Haller as his inside forward partners, as well as a remarkable consistent left half behind him in Romano Fogli. But after that 1964 triumph, Nielsen's career took a down-turn. He and Haller were never the best of friends and internal dissension took its toll on the field of play.

In 1967 Nielsen left Bologna for a brief unhappy spell with Internazionale, before returning to Denmark, to his business interests. We shall hear more of him later.

Until a few years ago the Danes were so protective of their amateur status they would not recall foreign-based professionals for internationals, and so it appears all the more remarkable that they reached the finals of the 1964 European championship without any help from the Nielsens.

They did, however, have a good all-round centre forward in Ole Madsen who, in amateur and professional roles represented his country more than 100 times. And they also had the luck of the draw in being successively drawn against Malta, Albania and Luxembourg on their way to the finals in Spain.

Even so, they needed an Amsterdam play-off to beat Luxembourg 1-0!

One in the finals it was a different tale. In Barcelona they were well beaten 3-0 by Russia in the semi-finals, but they pushed Hungary to extra time before going down 2-1 in the third place match — a match watched by a meagre 4,000 crowd.

That was the last Danish success at international level. They've never qualified for the finals of the World Cup — a factor explained this way by Simonsen, recently named the first Dane to win the European Footballer of the Year award: "The World Cup isn't for the likes of Denmark. We've produced some good footballers, but nothing like enough to think we're worthy of a place among the world's top 16."

However under Kurt Nielsen, now entering his third year as national team boss, Denmark are showing improvement. In 1976 they scored their first away win over Sweden for 39 years — a result which coincided with a change of policy, allowing the manager to recall foreign-based stars for matches.

Not that they always came very willingly — but with the Carlsberg cash soon available, that shouldn't be so much of a problem in future!

What will remain a problem is Denmark's standing in European club competition. Only four times has a Danish team reached the quarter finals in more than 20 years of the European Cups, and two of those 'successes' were in the same season, 1960-61.

Aarhus went to the last eight in the Champions' Cup before going down 1-3, 1-4 to eventual winners Benfica, while a Copehmagen Select lost 4-4, 0-5 to Birmingham City in the Fairs Cup. Denmark's other two mini-trail blazers have been in the Cup-winners' Cup. Odense 09 lost 0-1, 0-6 to Nurnberg in 1963, and Randers Freja lost 1-2, 0-3 to 1st FC Köln in 1969.

by ALEX GORDON

IF Ally MacLeod had worked little Ricardo Havelange with strings he couldn't have come up with a better World Cup draw for Scotland. Really, everything has worked out perfectly for the Scots, even down to playing Holland in the last match of the section which could by then, hopefully, be a formality.

Peru and Iran are hardly soccer giants and if Scotland are half as good as they are being cracked up to be then they shouldn't falter at either of these hurdles. MacLeod was jubilant after the draw. He said: "It's the best we could have expected. It's the best draw in the world, in fact.

"I am absolutely delighted. Things just couldn't be better. I'm also happy that we will be playing two of our matches in Cordoba. The fans there appear to like the Scots and we could get their neutral support in the games against Peru and Iran."

Skipper Bruce Rioch was equally joyful when the draw came through. He said: "This is marvellous. We must beat Peru and Iran. If we can do that we will be through to the next stage. If fact, I would say that we should qualify fairly easily."

His Derby and Scottish international team-mate Don Masson, who could be a key man in this World Cup, was just as confident. He declared: "We are absolute certainties to get through. There can be no doubt about it. We got a fair draw and it's up to us to make the most of it and I'm sure we will.

"Taking a quick look at the four sections here are my countries for the next stage of the tournament: Argentina, Italy, Brazil, Austria, West Germany, Poland, Holland and, of course, Scotland."

So, the Scots are extremely confident, but we must beware complacency. We must not forget Zaire. We expected a goal avalanche against them in West Germany four years ago and ended up settling for a 2-0 victory which was hardly impressive.

"We won't make that mistake again," says Celtic skipper Danny McGrain. "We were a different team four years ago. It was the first time we had qualified for the Finals in 16 years and, naturally enough, we were all a bit nervous.

"It will be different this time. We know what to expect and we are more experienced. I'm certain we have learned our lesson."

Peru have played Scotland only once and that was six years ago when the Scots won 2-0 at Hampden. Apparently, the Peruvian team has changed little since that match. Their main star is Teofilio Cubillas, who brought so much excitement and entertainment to the Mexico World Cup in 1970.

Chile didn't relish tough tackling in that tournament and nothing has changed now. The Scots midfield of Rioch, Masson and Asa Hartford could control this game right from the start. Their goalkeeping was extremely weak in Mexico and if the current No. 1 is no better then he can expect a rough time of it in the air from either Joe Jordan or Andy Gray. Or both!

Peru lost only 1-0 toBrazil not long ago and that is a fair result considering that Scotland lost 2-0 in the Maracana Stadium last summer. What can we expect from Peru? Will they be that easy?

I don't think it will be a walkover. A lot of people have said that this game will assure Scotland of two points. I doubt that. Enzo Bearzot, the astute Italian manager, has already said that every point in this World Cup is going to be treated like gold and I'll take his word for it.

A quick look at Peru's qualifying section reveals that they won both their home games, beating Ecuador (4-0) and Chile (2-0). Away from home they settled for 1-1 draws.

That indicates a team that can slow down the tempo whenever they want and with the amount of experienced players in their team that is hardly surprising. They still have the hard-working Hector Chumpitaz in the middle of the park alongside Hugo Sotil.

Winger Oblitas is swift and tricky and will undoubtedly be a menace on the break. He scored four goals in the qualifying section and that must speak volumes for his ability. We can expect the Peruvians to try to play possession football in an effort to frustrate Ally MacLeod's men. I honestly don't think they will have the ball long enough to dictate things.

It could be a high-scoring game although they are obviously not as naive as they were in Mexico. There they employed two attacking wingers who didn't want to know about coming back into the defensive zones. One, in particular, outside-left Gallardo must be a coach's nightmare. I hope he's still playing in this series!

Iran have the millionaires behind them, but there is no substitute for talent. You cannot buy soccer ability with an oil well and their stay in Argentina should be brief. But, again, Scotland must not be complacent and, thankfully, we are not playing them in our opening game, as we had to do with Zaire.

Holland play them on June 3 while Scotland meet the Peruvians. We will obviously get the opportunity to see how the Dutch cope with the unknowns of Iran. Scotland, though, will have a full dossier on them

The World Cup draw in progress.

Scotland happy with Cup draw

from Torquay's general manager, Frank O'Farrell, who was manager of the Iranian international side for a couple of years.

"I will be very happy to help Ally MacLeod," says O'Farrell. "I still keep in touch with the Iranian team and most of the players in that side are the ones I know.

"They have several good players, including a superb goalkeeper in Nasser Hedjazi. Their manager, Heshmitt Moharjorani, was my assistant and he is a very able coach. They have some wonderful individual players, but they shouldn't trouble Scotland too much."

And, so, to Holland. Will they persuade the great Johan Cruyff to play for them? They are certainly trying extremely hard, but Cruyff has been adamant in the past that he will not play in these Finals and he has been proved to be a man of his word. I hope he doesn't change now!

The World Cup will be the poorer without the glittering, dazzling array of skills of the Dutchman, but Holland have other brilliant individuals. Robbie Rensenbrink, for instance, has played in the shadow of Cruyff, but once that is removed he could really enjoy being in the spotlight.

And, of course, there is Johan Neeskens, Cruyff's Barcelona team-mate. His power and talent will be a telling factor. Jan Peters, too, showed his skills at Wembley by putting two expertly-placed shots past the despairing Ray Clemence last year.

I believe, though, they have been troubled by their goalkeepers. Ajax's Piet Schrijvers is likely to be the man in possession in June and, according to reports from Holland, he has hardly been consistent this season. The Dutch failed in West Germany four years ago because of weak goalkeeping. They were forced to play veteran Jan Jongbloed and he looked out of his depth, particularly in the Final against West Germany when he looked like something out of Madame Tussauds when Gerd Muller hit the winning goal.

This World Cup could have more than its fair share of crazy goalkeeping. A lot of countries have problems over their 'keepers and that must be good news for Jordan, Gray and Company.

Anyway, fate has been kind to Scotland with this draw. They are ideally placed for a spot in the next round. The rest is now up to Ally MacLeod and his boys. . . .

American threat to World Cup

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

THE American threat to future World Cups is now alarmingly plain. Already the NASL and the Cosmos have prevented Franz Beckenbauer from taking part in the Buenos Aires tournament. But if, as Giorgio Chinaglia promises (or threatens) a host of famous players up stakes and leave for America after the World Cup tournament, then what will the position be by the time the 1982 tournament is played in Spain?

Let us not be unfair to the Cosmos. As Giorgio Chinaglia remarked to me, it is just not possible for the Cosmos to release Beckenbauer for the two and a half months for which the Germans needed him; or thought they did. After all, they had paid over two and a half million dollars for him; why should they deprive themselves of his services for virtually half a season, and more? Beckenbauer himself should have thought of that before he signed the contract.

The problem, however, goes a great deal deeper than that. If, as seems probable, many players of renown are playing in the NASL by 1982, and if, as seems quite ineluctable, the NASL continues to be, Heaven help us, a summer League, the conflict of interests is both manifest and inevitable. You could scarcely expect the NASL clubs to release their star players in 1982, any more than the Cosmos have in 1978.

Talking as I did to Phil Woosnam, the former West Ham, Wales and Aston Villa star who now is commissioner of the NASL, it became quite clear that the NASL is itself a prisoner of circumstance, crushed between the upper and the nether millstone. Ideally, Woosnam would like to run his League through the Autumn and into December. Come Autumn, however, as he makes plain, the gridiron game is king.

The all-American male confirms his masculinity by spending his weekends aggressively before a television set, clutching a can of beer and watching American football. On Friday, as Woosnam told me, there is high school football. On Saturday, there is college football. On Sundays, climax is reached with the professional game. Nor is this all. Ice hockey and basketball also exert their sway in that television-dominated culture.

The NASL, therefore, is terrified of changing its season to the ideal time. Phil Woosnam rationalises passionately that the good old summer time is a good time, that it slows down the game and makes it more entertaining. If you believe that, as the Duke of Wellington told a man who accosted him as "Mr. Smith," then you will believe anything. The fragility of the NASL's hold on its public is further shown by Woosnam's resentment of the fact that closed circuit television will pump World Cup games into the United States, thus drawing off the dollars that would otherwise go to buying tickets for the NASL games. Here, he may be a little over-sensitive. Those who will go to the close circuit World Cup games are likely to be our old friends the "ethnics," the immigrants who probably wouldn't be seen dead at a NASL game, while those who do, in all-American family groups, go to NASL games probably wouldn't be a bit interested in the closed circuit World Cup matches.

What is to be done? Helmut Käser, Secretary of FIFA, was splendidly intransigent and outspoken when I talked to him. He excoriated the NASL as a League with no values other than the commercial, he criticised that pathetically feeble body, the United States Soccer Federation, for its inability to see to it that the NASL didn't use such an exaggerated proportion of foreign players. But they do and, so far as the predictable future is concerned, they will continue to do so. What then?

Herr Käser points out that in Europe, the system of inserting clauses in players' contracts whereby they will be available for their countries in World Cup games, has worked extremely well. No doubt it has, but the analogy is a rocky one. The European countries which import stars from abroad, such as Spain and West Germany, do not run their season through the summer. Let us be honest and blunt.

The NASL show every prospect of becoming a damned nuisance to the game. As Herr Käser says, they have no values other than the commercial. Phil Woosnam points out that it will be an embarrassment to the Americans themselves when they reach the World Cup Finals, since this will clash with the NASL just as inevitably. Let me say, with the greatest respect, that though this is a consummation devoutly to be wished, the present rate of American progress suggests that it will not occur for a decade or so.

Herr Kaser believes that salvation lies in the insistence of national associations on clauses which guarantee the release of their men for World Cups. But how can the NASL clubs accept such clauses, when their season runs through the summer? Impasse. Deadlock. As one who has been waiting 25 years and more to see soccer take off in the States, I can say only that I am deeply disappointed. Woosnam talks fluently as well, but as Gertrude Stein might have said, had she bent her tortuous intellect upon the NASL, a parasite is a parasite is a parasite.

NOT that every threat to the future of the World Cup comes from the outside. There seem strong possibilities that come next June, FIFA will accede to the senseless demands of the Have Nots of football, increase the representation of Asia, Africa and CONCACAF to a couple of clubs each, and the World Cup finals complement itself to a bloated 24.

This has been the aim of the egregious Joao Havelange, who of course defeated Fous in the FIFA Presidential Election of 1974 in Frankfurt thanks to the votes of the Afro-Asians.

Artemio Franchi, the Italian President of UEFA, has been strongly against this move for years. The latest news, however, is that Franchi will become FIFA President himself in 1982, when João Havelange, thank Heavens, says he intends to step down.

Will Franchi continue to oppose the enlargement of the World Cup, at the expense of the Europeans, who give the game most of its money and its strength? Will he swing UEFA and its members behind the old formula of sixteen clubs? Or will he suffer what might politely be termed a change of heart, and allow the proletariat of football, the also-rans of Asia, Africa and CONCACAF, to double their already exaggerated entry?

Sentimental

I have said before and I have said again, entry to the World Cups should be on merit, not on the dubious and sentimental basis of "encouraging" the game in its backwoods. If the Afro-Asians and the CONCACAF countries believe they deserve a larger representation, then let them prove it not by their finagling in the council chamber, but on the football field.

Let us do what should have been done so many years ago, throw the World Cup qualifying tournament open on a global rather than a regional basis, so that your Tunisias, Mexicos and Irans qualify on merit, not because they happen to be competing in the underdeveloped – in a footballing sense – regions of the world.

I like Artemio Franchi, for all the fact that he has had to use as his springboard the infinitely dubious and dishonest world of Italian football. I believe that he can, despite what has happened in UEFA in the past, be a positive force. But if he goes back on his beliefs and helps to promulgate an expanded World Cup, then the worse for football; and the worse for our hopes of him.

Espanola win again

UNION Española won the Chilean First Division for the fifth time (and third time in the last five years) — a record only bettered by Colo Colo (11 titles) and Universidad de Chile (7). Then Palestino won the four-team playoff between clubs placed second to fifth to earn a place in this year's Libertadores Cup (South American club championship) alongside Union Española.

Union Española, who in 34 league matches scored most goals (72) and let through fewest (28), are not a spectacular team, but well organised and, as their record shows, they have been dominating Chilean soccer in recent years. But it remains to be seen how much longer they can do it as their present team are all growing old together. Eight of the first eleven are over 30.

They can line up six current internationals — Gonzalez, Arias, Herrera, Machuca and Escobar in defence, Veliz in attack — while other outstanding players are Novello and Palacios (both Argentine) in an efficient halfline. But the man who won most points for them this season and must be on the verge of international selection is goalkeeper Mario Osben, known as "Gato" (cat), who made

from ERIC WEIL

many miracle saves at crucial moments . . . and Chilean soccer does not throw up many outstanding goalkeepers. Most promising also was young Jorge Pereda, the team's top scorer with 24 goals (Veliz was second with nine) who however had already left for a trial with Belgian club Anderlecht before the last game.

Veterans

Union Española play 4-3-3 under coach Luis Santibañez and, with the experience of veterans, controlled their efforts perfectly. But it was close all the way with last year's champions Everton finishing only two points behind after their two games with the leaders ended 1-1. (The 1976 championship was won by Everton after a playoff against Union Española who had finished with the same number of points.)

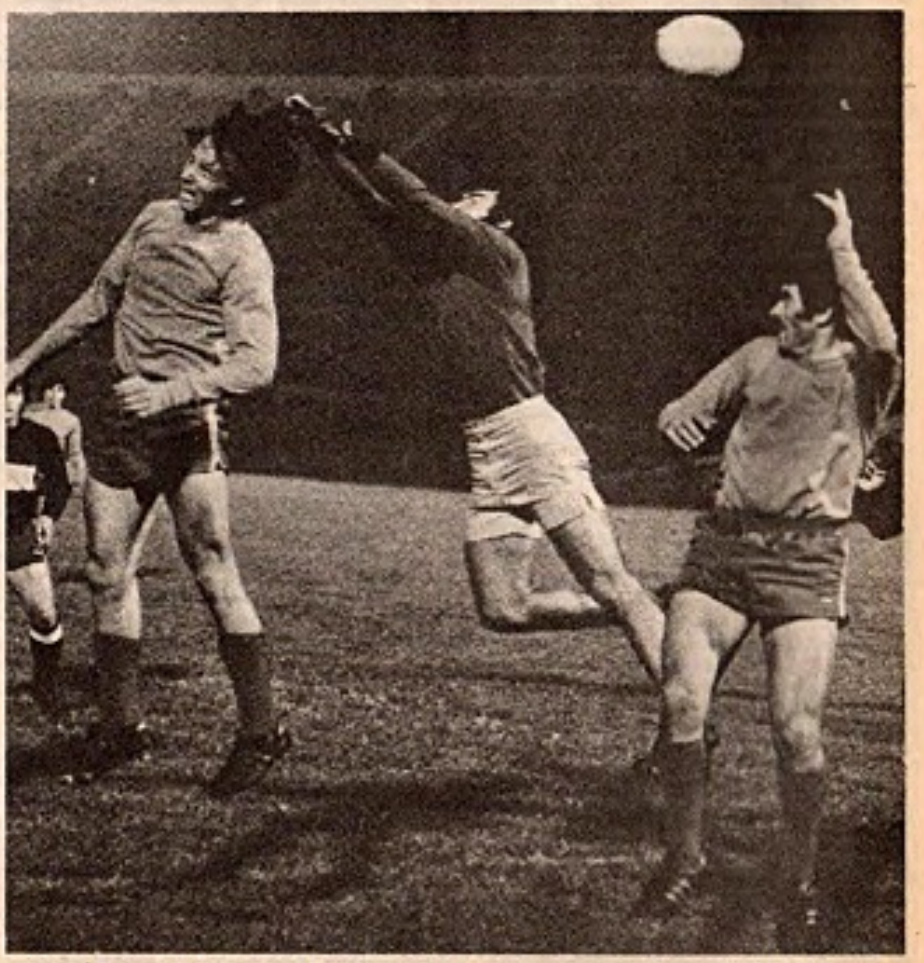
Earlier Palestino, who finished third, also looked possible champions, but although they went unbeaten through 18 games, it was not enough to make up for a bad spell halfway through the first round. Palestino had outstanding veteran defender Figueroa back from Brazil and also the championship's leading scorer in Oscar Fabbiani, an Argentine, who scored 34 of the team's 70 goals.

After modest Aviacion surprisingly made the early running, Colo Colo took the lead until well into the second half when a bad spell ended with the resignation of their Hungarian coach, Ferenc Puskas, who had already earlier had trouble with his players over his hard training methods. Then, after a few weeks of jockeying for the leadership, Union Española took over a narrow lead — never more than the final two points — which they held for the last six weeks in one of the closest title fights for years.

But in spite of the close championship, gates were mostly poor, specially after Chile's elimination from the World Cup and popular Colo Colo's fall from contention. Hardly any new players of note have come to the fore, the poor standard of recent years continued and Chile's best players (mostly forwards) continue to go to clubs abroad. Thus Union Española do not look like serious candidates for the Libertadores Cup.

CHILEAN FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1933	Magallanes
1934	Magallanes
1935	Magallanes
1936	Audax Italiano
1937	Colo Colo
1938	Magallanes
1939	Colo Colo
1940	Universidad de Chile
1941	Colo Colo
1942	Santiago Morning
1943	Union Española
1944	Colo Colo
1945	Green Cross
1946	Audax Italiano
1947	Colo Colo
1948	Audax Italiano
1949	Universidad Catolica
1950	Everton
1951	Union Española
1952	Everton
1953	Colo Colo
1954	Universidad Catolica
1955	Palestino
1956	Colo Colo
1957	Audax Italiano
1958	Wanderers
1959	Universidad de Chile
1960	Colo Colo
1961	Universidad Catolica
1962	Universidad de Chile
1963	Colo Colo
1964	Universidad de Chile
1965	Universidad de Chile
1966	Universidad Catolica
1967	Universidad de Chile
1968	Wanderers
1969	Universidad de Chile
1970	Colo Colo
1971	Union San Felipe
1972	Colo Colo
1973	Union Española
1974	Huachipato
1975	Union Española
1976	Everton
1977	Union Española



Union Espanola defenders (left to right) Herrera, goalkeeper Canen and Escobar in action during a Chilean first division match.

Chilean first division champions Espanola. Standing (left to right): Arias, Herrera, Las Heras, Gonzalez, Escobar, Caben. Kneeling: Novello, Quiroz, Peredo, Neira, Miranda.

ARGENTINA : UNEVENTFUL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SECTION play in the most uneventful and poorest national championship ever came to an end in Argentina with Newell's Old Boys, Estudiantes de La Plata, Talleres Cordoba and Independiente winning sections A to D (respectively) easily to qualify for the semi-finals.

There was never any doubt that Newell's would win the weak A section assoon as it was drawn. They were the only First Division team in it which had played steadily earlier in the season. Yazalde, recently returned from Europe, gave even more power to an already strong attack which finished as leading scorers with 33 goals in 14 games. Forwards Alfaro, Rocha and Berta were also hard to stop, well backed by international half Gallego and a compact, experienced defence good at playing the ball into attack.

Section B was dominated by defence and counter attack as its three major exponents — Estudiantes, champions Boca Juniors, Rosario Central — played in it and finished in that order. This made the vital games between similar styles boring, but Estudiantes ran away with it, because they scored more goals, having in C. Lopez a man who could cleverly move the whole team at the right moment, champion-top scorer Letanu and other good forwards. At the same time closest challengers Boca Juniors started fielding reserves as soon as they appeared to have lost their chance.

Talleres (Cordoba), again showed that they are the best team outside the First Division by winning the tough C section with improving Racing (2nd), helped by recently acquired Avallay's goals, First Division champions River Plate (3rd) and Velez Sarsfield (4th). But River Plate started badly and it was difficult to recover in such a short tournament while they sent most of their first teamers on holiday when their chance seemed to have gone.

Velez Sarsfield on the other hand, a leading First Division candidate this season, suspended 10 first teamers over money matters at the start of the national championship and although their young reserves did magnificently, it was not the same.

Independiente had easily the best squad in section D, although Bertoni's absence from the attack for most of the time (operation) reduced their fire power. But the skills of their other internationals (Bochini, Galvan, Larrosa, etc.) and dangerous attacking by Britez, Magallanes and Outes was enough although non-First Division Belgrano (Cordoba) — a revelation without so many top players — ran Independiente close with good, effective teamwork. Third placed Huracan often promised so much with their internationals Carrascosa, Ardiles and Houseman, but seldom delivered the goods as they mainly lacked punch in attack.

With so many teams losing interest and fielding reserves long before the end and with twice weekly matches so late in the mid-summer heat (when soccer is not usually played), the poor gates and losses by every club were hardly surprising.

Letanu (Estudiantes) was top scorer with 13 goals, followed by Avallay (Racing) 12, Alfaro (Newell's) and Outes (Independiente) 11.

COLOMBIA: ARGENTINE ESTUDIANTES STYLE DOMINATES

WITH first time Colombian champions Junior Baranquilla being coached by Juan Veron (who also plays for them) and Deportivo Cali, who again became vice-champions (although finishing with the same number of points as Millionarios in the final round, but gaining higher places during the season) under Eduardo Bilardo and Nacional, the previous year's champions in fourth place, under Osvaldo Zubeldia, it is not surprising that the defence and counter attack ugly soccer style with which Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) won three successive Libertadores Cups dominates in Colombia.

Veron and Bilardo played in that famous, or infamous team, while Zubeldía coached it. (All three are Argentines). For Veron it was his first coaching experience. He was asked to take over during the season when Jose Varacka, another Argentine, resigned to return to Argentina's Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata. Other Argentine players in the champion Junior team, apart from player coach Veron, are Delmenico, Solari, Cerminatto and Lorea.

Next season the state-run sports institute and the Colombian FA intend to enforce a rule made in 1970 which allows clubs to sign only four foreign players and line up only three per match. The rule has been violated by many of the 14 professional league clubs who say that otherwise they would not be able to provide the game which brings in the fans.

URUGUAY: DOUBLE FOR NACIONAL

NACIONAL completed the "double" by winning the Uruguayan First Division for the first time since 1972 — their 21st title against Peñarol's 22 in 44 professional championships since 1933 — after earlier in the season also winning the Major League.

At press time the last of the season's tournaments was in progress — a six-team playoff between the season's leading teams to find one Uruguayan representative for the Libertadores Cup. The other cup team is the one to have picked up most points in all three tournaments — almost surely Nacional.

But Nacional had to sweat it out in the end of a close title race. They barely drew 0-0 with traditional rivals Peñarol in a poor game to maintain their two-point lead going into the last match and then, needing only a draw for the title, nervously took a second half 2-0 lead against Rentistas before the latter fought back to equalise with the last shot. The referee immediately ended the game under strong protests that there was still a minute left to play. Argentine coach Pedro Dellacha coaches the champions who looked the best team throughout the season.

ALLAN JOINS DESERT TRAIN

by BRIAN MARSHALL

Ronnie Allen signing his autograph upon leaving the Hawthorns.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION'S failure to give Ronnie Allen a contract cost them the services of their manager who was tempted away from England by the lure of a 16 month contract reputed to be worth £100,000.

Allen said: "For the first time I have been ruled by my head instead of my heart. I would dearly have loved to have remained at West Bromwich but this offer was too good to turn down."

Ironically, only a few weeks previously Brian Clough had let the cat out of the bag when he revealed that Allen was not on contract at the Hawthorns. Clough was quickly put in his place by West Bromwich Albion's chairman, Bert Millichip, but the club official still failed to take note of the situation.

It was then that Jimmy Hill and his organisation stepped in with the offer that Allen could not refuse. Then, and only then, did Albion offer Allen a contract but by then it was far too late.

The terms could not compare with those offered by the Saudi Arabian officials and Allen was lost to the English club. But the case was full of ironies because when Allen returned from a managerial stint in Spain he joined Walsall in the Third Division but after only a few months was forced to leave Fellows Park because the Third Division club had run into financial difficulties.

He was not under any contract with Walsall and he drifted out of the game and into business. Then he was asked to join Albion in a scouting capacity to help Johnny Giles who himself quit Albion a few months later because of the general uncertainty in the game and the genuine desire to return to Eire where he has business interests.

To his credit Allen adapted well to what could have been a very difficult situation with his directors, players and fans.

It was extremely fortunate for Allen, in retrospect, that the team made such a good start under his control. The spirit engendered by Giles was maintained and this enabled the team to produce some outstanding results with players like Willie Johnston, Laurie Cunningham, Cyrille Regis, Derek Statham, John Trewick and Bryan Robson emerging as key men in an Albion team which quickly romped into the top four in the First Division.

Allen himself paid credit to the experienced players in the club such as John Wile for the contribution that was made on the field. In a nutshell it was a happy team that Allen nurtured and for their part the Albion board was quite content to allow the situation to develop along those seemingly satisfactory lines.

Unfortunately for them and fortunately for Allen himself the Saudi Arabian officials then stepped in with a fabulous tax free offer to take over as their manager with special responsibilities for the forthcoming Gulf Games.

Allen, however, does not intend to cut himself off completely from the English game. He is hoping that he can find a spot for himself when he returns to England upon the completion of his contract.

He said just before leaving his Sutton Coldfield home: "I have discovered in the past that it pays not to look too far ahead in this game and that it is most important to take only one step at a time.

"Of course, it is quite possible that I will see things in an entirely different light when I come back from Saudi Arabia. I've always loved soccer and it has proved to be a very good life to me. I'm just hoping that it continues to be so in the future."

Allen certainly kept everyone at West Bromwich Albion fully informed of developments and being local businessmen they fully appreciated the kind of offer he finally accepted to make him leave the Midland club.

Albion, however, are not very happy with the implications of the move which can entice their managers away because of their inability to match the terms offered by other countries.

There was no way in which Albion could match the £100,000 tax free deal. With taxation at such a high level Allen would have to work years instead of months to accumulate this kind of money.

Allen is now busy getting acclimatised to his new job. When he left Birmingham for a villa in Riyadh he was not fully aware of the requirements being laid down by his new employers.

But he was positive that his experience picked up in Portugal and Spain would stand him in good stead. The only problem was that of team discipline. Stories have come out that the players are so easy going that it is not always certain that they will turn up at the stipulated time for training.

Allen, who is fully aware of the situation which prevails, said: "I will play it by ear for the first few weeks. Obviously, I will be working very closely with the coaches and as they have been in the country for several months they will be a big help to me in every department.

At the present time everything is geared towards the Gulf Games. This is a prestige affair in that part of the world and success could result in big bonuses for Allen and his coaches like Pat Wright, Geoff Vowden, Malcolm Beard, and David Woodfield.

The interesting side-light to these Games is that it will also include the United Arab Emirates, who are now under the control of Don Revie.

This is another reason why the outcome of the Games will be watched with more than a passing interest in Britain. It will certainly make life very interesting for the managers and coaches.

Albion, meanwhile, soldier on but it is hoped that they may have learned one lesson out of this episode. Ronnie Allen is obviously a handsome winner, while Albion were undoubtedly the losers. . . .

Leslie Vernon reviews the Hungarian scene

Hope springs eternal even in Group One

THE reaction to the horrific World Cup draw was understandably tight-lipped and sombre in Hungary. Officially, no desperation could be displayed, because such an attitude would have transported itself to the players, and to travel to Argentina with an inferiority complex would be pointless.

Rudolf Illouszky, ex-manager of the national team, summed-up the prevalent mood when he said: "Even a place in Group III would have been better. Unquestionably, our section is by far the strongest, and the two winners could go on and play each other again in the Final, as was the case in 1954, when we met W. Germany twice. Argentina are certain to finish on top of the Group, because for them too, play at home is a tremendous advantage. I feel that we are better than France, and about equal to Italy. We need to play extremely well to progress."

Of the players, Bela Varadi, the Vasas striker, recalled Hungary's defeat early in '77 in Buenos Aires. "Argentina beat us 5-1, but it was after a tiring 24 hours' flight. This time we shall be much better prepared, and they might be slightly over-confident. We must beat Italy, and then I cannot see us fail against France."

Despite these brave noises, the draw is regarded as a set-back which reflects badly on Hungarian football diplomacy. During the two days prior to the draw, when deals were made behind the scenes, the 'upright Magyars' allowed themselves to be manipulated by the shrewd Latins, the devious W. Germans, and the FIFA hierarchy, which is only interested in the financial aspects of the Tournament. Thus four years' hard labour have been ruined in one fleeting moment by unfairly 'arranging' a well-planned lottery.

Lajos Baroti, who has remained steadfastly optimistic, emphasised that Hungary were the underdogs in the qualifying competition, yet they overcame Russia and the thin air of Bolivia. He is also determined not to indulge in premature speculations concerning the type of opposition Argentina and Italy might provide, except of course discussing them strictly in the football sense.

Express

The Press are less reluctant to express their collective fear that the forthcoming World Cup will be like a crap game played with loaded dice, and to quote another picturesque phrase "the aces have already been dealt out" to Argentina and Italy.

But life goes on, and in many ways it is better to lose a battle off-the-pitch than on it. Consequently, the national squad met promptly on January 30 at 8 am to begin their preparations for the Mundial.

Baroti, national team manager, said: "Up to the end of the league season, the squad will train twice a week. The aim is to improve our team-work, ball-control, tactical awareness, and to practise set pieces. The U-21 squad will train for their European Championship games against Yugoslavia (March 22, April 5) under the management of Bela Karpati.

"Kerekes and Pasztor will be the 'over-age' players in their line-up. Generally speaking, the senior squad is not closed. Other players who show outstanding form will still be considered. After the domestic season is over, I shall take a 25-strong squad to a training camp near Budapest between April 24 and May 15, and work in the Nepstadium. Then we shall travel to W. Germany with nineteen players, and form our H.Q. there. We shall travel to play three matches — May 16 v Schalke 04, May 24 v England, May 27 v Sochaux in France. On the 28th we fly to Buenos Aires from Frankfurt."

Squad

These are the boys who form the present "large squad" and might find their names on the travelling list to Argentina.

Ferencvaros: (7) Martos, Balint, Rab, Nyikasi, Ebedli, Pusztai, Magyar. Vasas: (7) Meszaros, Torok, Zombori, Oroshazi, Kovacs L., Varadi, Izso. Ujpest Dozsa: (6) Toth Z., Toth J., Toth A., Fazekas, Torocsik, Nagy L. Honved: (6) Gujdar, Paroczay, Kocsis L., Nagy A., Lukacs, Pinter. Videoton: (4) Vegh, Csongradi, Majer, Szabo. Tatabanya: (4) Kiss, Halasz, Csapo, Nagy P. MTK-VM: (2) Varga, Borso. Haladas: (2) Kereki, Kovacs. Bekescsaba: (2) Kerekes, Pasztor.

Finally, looking at the lighter side, here is an extract from a conversation between two Budapest neighbours on the morning after the World Cup draw, as recorded by a Nepsport colleague:

"Well, what do you think?" Unbelievable!" "After a hard week, I switch on the TV, expecting some light comedy programme, and then they put on this tragedy."

"You are right. And the casting was terrible. That anti-hero, that villain, Ricardo. At times he looked quite sympathetic."

"Are you mad? You could see how much enjoyment he got out of torturing us."

"So, how did you react to it all?"

"I was scratching my palms, but after the wife put some iodine on it, I was able to sleep for about an hour. Through the walls I heard you open a bottle of champagne."

"Don't be silly! I pushed the wardrobe on top of the TV set to blot out that Frankenstein-like Ricardo".

"Well, are you going to watch the next instalment?"

"Of course! I heard that over 10,000 people committed suicide in Italy the night after the draw, and in France, they have ordered a day of national mourning. So, perhaps we still have a slight chance. . . ."

Hope springs eternal, even in Group I in deepest Argentina!

...place a regular order for WORLD SOCCER now

THE SPORT'S PREMIER INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY

Subscriptions Manager,
WORLD SOCCER,
79 Temple Chambers,
London, E.C.4,
please enter a 12 months subscription commencing with issue dated

UNITED KINGDOM £6.60
EUROPE £7.50
N. AMERICA, Air Mail $20.00
" Surface $15.00
AUSTRALASIA, Air Mail ... $16.00
" Surface . $11.00

other rates on application.

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....

BRITISH COACHES DOMINATE LEAGUE

IN 1978 clubs in the North American Soccer League will once again have mainly British coaches as has been the practice throughout the league's eleven year history. Among the many reasons for this is that the coach must help sell the game to the public and promote the club through the news media.

This of course generally rules out coaches who do not speak English fluently and in 1978 there will be few exceptions to this rule. Here are some of the NASL coaches for 1978 and their backgrounds.

MALCOLM MUSGROVE — Chicago Sting

Former West Ham and Orient winger who coached Torquay Utd. from 1973 to early 1977. Took over the NASL's Connecticut Bicentennials in mid June 1977 but when that franchise was moved to Oakland was appointed coach of the Chicago Sting.

EDDIE FIRMANI — Cosmos

South African born Italian international who played for Charlton Athletic, Sampdoria, Inter-Milan and Genoa. Played three internationals for Italy on the basis that his grandfather was an Italian. Coached Charlton after his playing days were over and came to the U.S. in 1975 to coach Tampa Bay leading them to the NASL championship in his first season. Took over the Cosmos mid way through the 1977 season and led them to the championship.

DAVE CLEMENTS — Caribous of Colorado

One time player manager of Northern Ireland whose club career took him from Portadown to Sheffield Wednesday and then on to Coventry City, Wolves and Everton. Joined the New York Cosmos in 1976 and this year returns to the U.S. to take over a new club.

from COLIN JOSE

AL MILLER — Dallas Tornado

Born in Ono, Pennsylvania and the first American born coach of an NASL team when he took over the newly formed Philadelphia Atoms in 1973. Immediately led them to the championship and remained with the Atoms through to 1976 when he took over from Ron Newman in Dallas. Has also coached the U.S. national team.

KEN FURPHY — Detroit Express

Appointed coach of the New York Cosmos in 1976 after a career as manager of Workington, Watford, Blackburn Rovers and Sheffield United. Things did not work out for him in New York and he left half-way through the season, now he is back in the U.S. at the helm of the newly formed Detroit Express.

RON NEWMAN — Fort Lauderdale Strikers

Coach of the year in the NASL last season as he led the Strikers to the best regular season record in the league in their first season. A former player with Portsmouth, he came to the U.S. in 1967 to play for the Atlanta Chiefs and stayed on to become a key man in the growth of the NASL. Coach of Dallas from 1969 to 1975 during which time he had a lot to do with the phenominal growth of soccer in the state of Texas.

TERRY FISHER — Los Angeles Aztecs

A former U.S. college coach at UCLA in Los Angeles, Terry is the youngest coach in the NASL. Became coach of the Aztecs in 1975 and since that time the Aztecs have always been a force to be reckoned with.

FREEDIE GOODWIN — Minnesota Kicks

First came to the U.S. in 1967 as coach of the now defunct New York Generals and on his return to England first became manager of Brighton and Hove Albion and then led Birmingham City into the First Division in 1972. Appointed coach of Minnesota in 1976 and took them to the NASL final in their first year. As a player Goodwin appeared for Leeds United and Manchester United.

MALCOLM ALLISON — Memphis Rogues

Made his name as a coach with Manchester City and in comapny with Joe Mercer as the manager captured the First Division championship in 1967-68, the F.A. Cup in 1969 and the European Cup Winners Cup in 1970. Eventually became manager of Crystal Palace and since that time has held many coaching jobs in various parts of the world. Takes over a new club in Memphis.

MIRKO STOJANOVIC — Oakland Stompers

Former Yugoslavian international goalkeeper who starred for Red Star Belgrade but came to the U.S. in 1967 to play for the old Oakland Clippers. Since that time has played for the Dallas Tornado but this will be his first major league coaching venture.

DON MEGSON — Portland Timbers

Quit as manager of Bristol Rovers in mid-season to take the Portland job. As a player Megson played for Sheffield Wednesday and Bristol Robers and appeared in the 1966 F.A. Cup final for Wednesday. As manager at Bristol he led them to the Watney Cup in 1972 and to promotion to the Second Division in 1974.

RICHARD DINNIS — Philadelphia Furies

Took over from Gordon Lee as manager of Newcastle United in January of 1977 but was replaced after a disastrous start to the 1977-78 season. Formerly assistant to Lee at Blackburn Rovers. He takes over a new club in Philadelphia and one of his players will be Peter Osgood.

DRAGAN POPOVIC — Rochester Lancers

Played for Red Star Belgrade and VfB Stuttgart before coming to the U.S. in 1967 to play for the St. Louis Stars. Moved to Kansas City in 1968 and eventually wound up in Canada playing for the Toronto Serbian White Eagles. This will be his third season with the Lancers.

JIMMY GABRIEL — Seattle Sounders

Took the Sounders to the NASL final last year in his first season as head coach of the club losing a close game to the Cosmos. Gabriel a former Scottish international who played for Dundee, Everton and Southampton had been a player and an assistant coach at Seattle before the 1977 season.

HUBERT VOGELSINGER — San Diego Sockers

A native of Austria, Vogelsinger played for Rapid and Admira in Vienna before coming to the U.S. One time coach of Yale University his first NASL club was the Boston Minutemen in 1974. When Boston folded due to financial problems in 1976 was quickly appointed coach of Team Hawaii for 1977. Illness curtailed his activities in that season and with that club now having left Hawaii he takes over in San Diego.

GORDON JAGO — Tampa Bay Rowdies

Returns to coaching in the U.S. after nine years in England with Queens Park Rangers

24 TEAMS IN 1978 NASL

THE North American Soccer League will operate in 1978 with 24 teams spread over six leagues. The six leagues will be divided into two conferences the "National" and the "American".

While to European fans such a line up will be somewhat puzzling this alignment follows traditional practice in North America where in none of the major sports is there any promotion or relegation as is commonplace throughout most of the rest of the sports world.

Under the NASL system there will be no second class teams as a second division implies. Also one of the benefits of having six leagues with just four teams in each league is that almost all of the teams are in contention for a berth in the post season play-offs right up until the final weeks of the season, thus maintaining interest over the whole season.

In dividing up its 24 teams the NASL has taken geography into consideration as far as possible thereby reducing travelling expenses to a minimum. However, although each team will play more often against the teams in its own geographical area the league will still maintain its coast to coast image by playing numerous interlocking games with the teams in the other areas.

For example each team in the NASL this year will play 30 games with 14 of those games being confined to its own geographical area. When a team plays outside of its own area it will usually be in the form of a tour to another area thereby reducing the number of long distance flights.

Sixteen of the 24 teams will qualify for the play offs including the top two teams in each league, plus two other teams from each conference who have the next greatest number of points.

THE 1978 NASL regular season extends from April 1 to April 6 and will culminate in Soccer Bowl 78, between the two conference champions, scheduled for August 27 at Giants Stadium, the home of the Cosmos, in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Boston and Houston have been added to the previously announced additions and changes in the league for 1978, both cities having had teams in the league previously. The last Houston franchise was in 1968 when the team was known as the Houston Stars, the new franchise will be known as the Houston Hurricanes and will play in the Houston Astrodome. The Boston team will operate under the name of New England.

The leagues will line up as follows.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern	Central	Western
Toronto Metros-Croatia	Minnesota Kicks	Vancouver Whitecaps
Rochester Lancers	Colorado Caribous	Seattle Sounders
New York Cosmos	Tulsa Roughnecks	Portland Timbers
Washington Diplomats	Dallas Tornado	Los Angeles Aztecs

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern	Central	Western
New England Teamen	Detroit Express	Oakland Stompers
Philadelphia Fury	Chicago Sting	San Jose Earthquakes
Tampa Bay Rowdies	Memphis Rouges	California Surf
Ft. Lauderdale Strikers	Houston Hurricane	San Diego Sockers

and Millwall. First came to the U.S. in 1968 where he coached the Baltimore Bays for two seasons and the U.S. national team in the World Cup preliminary rounds in 1969. Takes over one of the best clubs in the league in Tampa.

BILL FOULKES — Tulsa Roughnecks

Former Manchester United and England full back and a survivor of the Munich air disaster, Foulkes was a member of the United team that won the European Cup in 1968. After one and half seasons as a coach of the Chicago Sting he moves on to new ground in Oklahoma.

TONY WAITERS — Vancouver Whitecaps

Ex-England international goalkeeper who played for Blackpool and Burnley. Became manager of Plymouth Argyle in 1972 but was fired in the spring of 1977. Took over the Whitecaps in mid season last year replacing Eckhard Krautzun the Canadian national team coach.

GORDON BRADLEY — Washington Diplomats

Coach of the New York Cosmos from 1971 to 1977, Bradley first came to New York as a player in 1968 with the old New York Generals. Led New York to their first NASL championship in 1972 and coached the club during the first half of the 1977 season at the end of which they won their second championship. Moved on to Washington during the close season. Also coached the U.S. national team briefly in 1973 and played in one international for the U.S. in that year.

JOHN SEWELL — California Surf

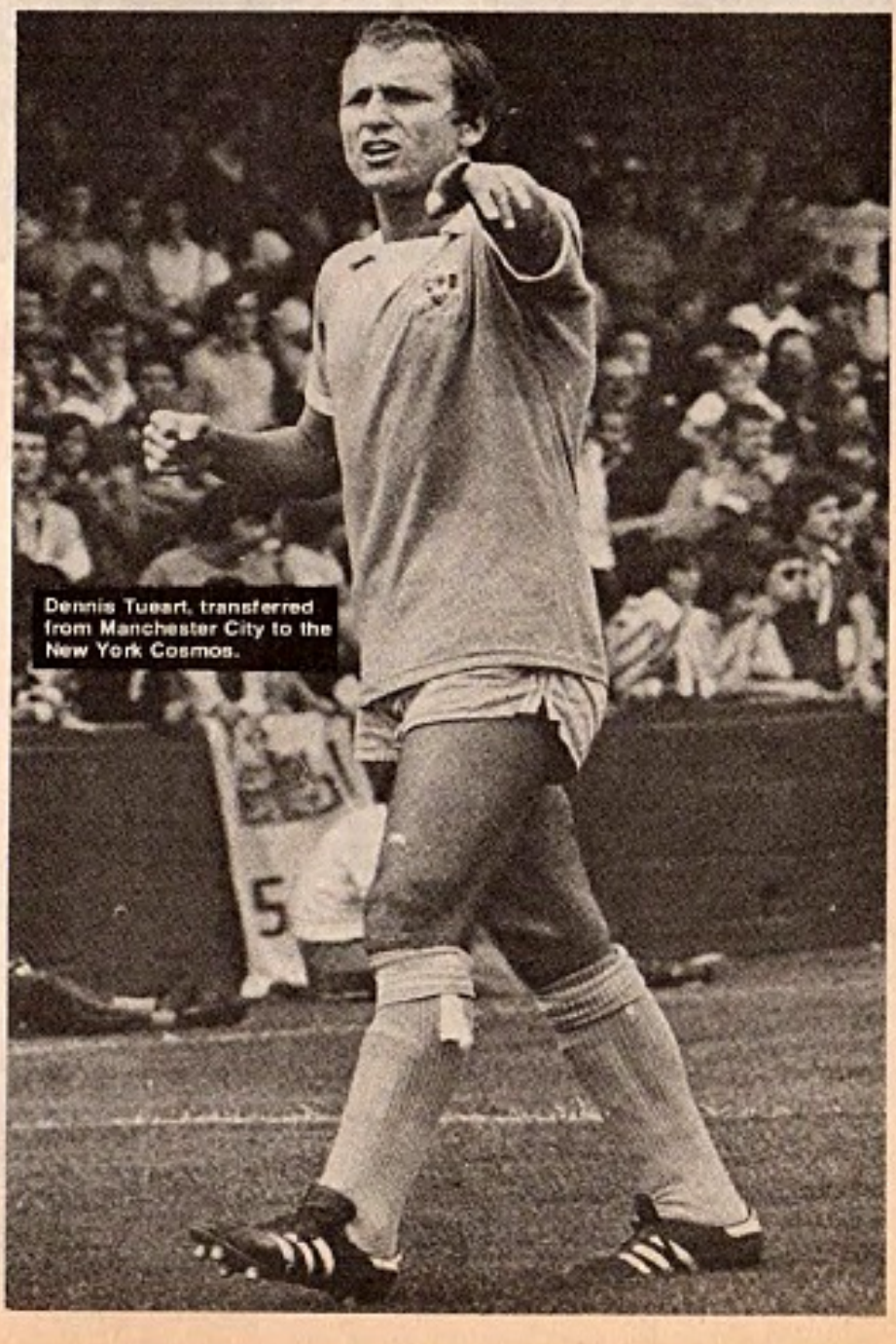
After four years as coach and two as a player with the St Louis Stars, Sewell moves to California with the transfer of that franchise. During his tenure in St. Louis the Stars relied largely on American born talent. For many years before his move to the U.S. John Sewell was a key defender for Crystal Palace.

NOEL CANTWELL — New England Teamen

Former Eire international whose career took him from Cork Athletic to West Ham United and then on to Manchester United. Managed Coventry City for a number of seasons and also Peterborough United, but this is his first venture into U.S. soccer.

DOMOGOJ KAPETANOVIC — Toronto Metros-Croatia

Returns as coach of the Metros-Croatia after an absence of one year. Took over the club formerly in the middle of the 1976 season and led the team to the NASL championship, but returned to Yugoslavia at the end of the season and promptly led Osijek into the first division. Last season the team was coached by Ivica Sangulin who will be an assistant to Kapetanovic this coming season.



Dennis Tueart, transferred from Manchester City to the New York Cosmos.

Plenty of fireworks

News from Italy by Keir Radnedge

IT'S ALL fireworks in *Calcio* — literally and metaphorically!

What with the explosive World Cup draw, Milan's virtual abdication from the title chase, a long-awaited Juventus recovery and the surprising rise of modest Lanerossi Vicenza the *tifosi* haven't keen kept short of talking points to keep them occupied from one match to the next.

There's been a major disciplinary row too and . . . oh yes, a real firework accident.

Both these last two matters concerned another high-riding outsider, Perugia. For it was three minutes from the end of their home match against Lazio that a firework, thrown from the crowd, struck down Lazio's new international stopper, Lionello Manfredonia.

Perugia had the match sewn up at 4-0 by then, and coach Ilario Castagner was not surprisingly concerned that the league's disciplinary supremo, Alberto Barbe, might rule a 2-0 *a tavolino* win for Lazio. He needn't have worried. It turned out that the firework had come from a group of Lazio fans — even Manfredonia admitted as much later.

Manfredonia is the fourth player in just over seven years to be struck by a firecracker, and it's both a wonder that no-one has been seriously hurt and completely understandable why UEFA have tried in vain to clamp down on them.

In December 1970 Milan's Silvano Villa had to leave the field after being hit by a firework at Napoli. Milan were awarded the game 2-0 (though they won the match 1-0) but were on the wrong end of things in February 1975 when Juventus striker Pietro Anastasi had to be substituted after being blitzed at San Siro. That game was awarded to Juventus and San Siro was closed for two Milan home games — though this was later reduced on appeal to a hefty fine.

Finally, almost two years ago, Torino goalkeeper Luciano Castellini came close to losing an eye after being struck in the face against Juventus.

All that trouble with Manfredonia, however, was nothing to the row the following Sunday which broke over the head of Florence referee Gino Menicucci, who had charge of the Perugia-Vicenza game, a sort of provincial 'Cup Final'.

Unfortunately a good game was upset in the 57th minute. Perugia had gone ahead moments before half-time with a goal from Walter Speggiorin, and Vicenza were looking for an equaliser, led by the talented new centre forward Paolo Rossi.

The 21-year-old whose goals brought Vicenza out of *Serie B* last season earned a penalty when pulled down by Perugia defender Luciano Zecchini. But Perugia were annoyed because Rossi certainly made a meal of it. To add to their anger Menicucci asked Rossi, just before he was about to convert his 12 th goal of the season, if he *had* dramatised the incident!

"I told him the truth," said Rossi. "I'm not the type to try on something like that."

Later in the game, however, when Perugia claimed a penalty for a foul on Bagni, the referee awarded a free kick the other way for ungentlemanly conduct, judging that the player had 'dived'.

At the end of the match three Perugia players, Zecchini, their outstanding young forward Walter Novellino, and midfielder Franco Vannini all made for Menicucci, and he reported them to the league for threats and insults.

Zecchini was suspended for five games, Novellino for three and Vannini for two. Perugia, whose fans had also besieged the dressing rooms after the game, were also fined £1,300 and cautioned about further excesses.

That was not the end of the matter.

Reduced

Zecchini threatened to take the case to civil courts, appealed to the league, and had his sentence reduced to four games. Menicucci found his home telephone constantly ringing with threats on the life of himself and his family, and finally Perugia alleged that at a previous game Menicucci had agreed to award Vicenza a penalty in a future match in return for Lanerossi not complaining about a decision he had earlier in the season given against them.

The league have ordered an inquiry into the affair.

Lanerossi Vicenza meanwhile continue in the hope that Juventus may slip. But their best chance of pulling back on the champions was in their home game against the Turin giants, and they wasted the occasion. A disappointing game (for Vicenza) finished in a 0-0 draw, though Rossi — playing against the club who own half of him! — was the best player on the pitch.

Juventus have been a little wayward this season, and Press and fans have built it all up into a crisis of ridiculous proportions. As Rossi said after the game: "If Juventus are in the middle of a crisis, I'd hate to play against them when they're in form!"

Vicenza's success owes much to the modern philosophy of their 51-year-old coach, Gianbattista Fabbri — not to be confused with former *Azzurri* boss, Edmondo Fabbri.

Fabbri believes that every player should be an all-rounder, able to attack and defend with equal facility. Fabbri knows what he is talking about — in 1950, playing for Messina in *Serie C*, he played in nine different positions.

Most of his career, first as player than as a coach, has been spent in the second and third divisions. He did play in *Serie A* as a forward for Modena then Spal in the early 1950s and was on the Torino and Spal coaching staffs before switching to Cesena. Promoted emergency towards the end of one season saved them from relegation, but was th replaced and went to *Serie B* Livorno.

After building a team from next to nothi and stringing together some good results received a letter from the president telli him how the team should be instructed to pl for the next game; Fabbri, a man of footb principle as well as philosophy, resigned the spot.

Next stop third division Piacenza. He to them into the second division in 1975, th back down again in 1976, but that didn't de Vicenza from offering him the job of pulli the Rossi-wool (Lane-Rossi) team back in the top flight.

Vicenza had been relegated in 1975 afte 20-year stay in *Serie A*, in which the highe place they reached was sixth in the mid-196 when they relied on the goals of the Brazili centre forward Luis Vinicio, now coach Lazio.

Vinicio, say the fans, has been reborn Rossi. But they can't rely on him staying lo His explosion in these past two seasons h made Juventus keen to reclaim him in t summer, even if they have to release Vicenza the ex-Cagliari striker, Pietro Pao Virdis, about whom they made such a fuss la year in signing for just over £1 million.

Six times

Rossi, born in Prato near Florence September 23, 1956, joined Juve from h home town team in 1973, but stayed tw years without getting a game. In the autum of 1975 Juventus lent him to Como, but h played only six times for them without scorin and went to Vicenza nearly two years ago.

Now, having established himself as to scorer in *Serie A* this season and having wo his first caps for Italy against Belgium an Spain as well as playing for the under-21 an military representative teams he could eve be leading the *Azzurri* attack in the Worl Cup Finals (Incidentally, the 2-1 defeat b Spain is reported elsewhere in this edition)

Vicenza's fans think so much of him that wealthy group have had a marble statu carved of Rossi. They wanted it placed at th main gate before the match with Juventus, bu club president Farina said sagely that it migh be better placed in the supporters' clu headquarters — where it now stands.

Rossi, it appears, is under all the righ planetary signs. A leading Italian astrologe says that the *Azzurri* have all the makings o World Cup winners, and that the way the star are falling into line Rossi will be the ma everyone will be talking about in Argentina i June!

The man most people are talking about a the moment in Italy, however, is Gianni

STUNNED BY CUP DRAW

THE World Cup draw stunned Italian soccer. No-one had believed it could look so grim for the *Azzurri*.

First we have to get past England to qualify — now this! was the comment of most players and managers.

Team manager Enzo Bearzot didn't mince words: "That's a bad start, with the most difficult group."

Italy of course face Argentina, Hungary and France — with the game against Argentina being their final group one match. Italy had hoped to benefit from the hosts' usual easy draw, but it couldn't have worked out worse.

Still, Bearzot is hoping that the size of the task will concentrate the players' minds and help them to ignore all the usual hurdles which Italian World Cup squads create for themselves. Hardly a World Cup goes by without the Italians beating themselves.

In 1962 in Chile they found themselves vilified because of some snide reporting about their hosts by a couple of newspapers, then in 1966 in England the players and officials were divided over whether to back the more progressive ideas of Edmondo Fabbri or hold fast to the Inter-style *catenaccio*.

In Mexico in 1970 controversy raged around Gianni Rivera, as it did in West Germany in 1974. If the Italians concentrated on football they wouldn't do so badly — it's when the petty jealousies have a chance to creep in that the manager might as well give up and go home.

So Bearzot is hoping for a calm second half to the championship — which means that as far as he's concerned the quicker Juventus go right out in front the better. A tense, tight title race would not suit him at all.

Not that Bearzot looks like making things easy for himself. His experiments with his younger B-team players against Belgium and Spain could rebound if he persists too long in considering new ideas. It's a little late now to start rebuilding!

Not that any of the old guard are assured of a place in Argentina — and that's what has been worrying skipper and sweeper Giacinto Facchetti.

The Inter veteran pulled a muscle in the 2-0 defeat by England and, when he was fit again, couldn't get his place back in his club team because of the excellent form of Graziano Bini. Nor could Facchetti extract much about his future chances from coach Eugenio Bersellini.

Seeing his chances of reaching 100 caps (he now has 94) fading, Facchetti uncharacteristically made a damning public attack on Inter's training methods, team selection and policy decisions.

Bersellini and presidential adviser Sandro Mazzola were not amused, and Facchetti was threatened with suspension. His reaction was to wonder about walking out now — he had already decided to retire at the season's end.

Finally president Ivanoe Fraizzoli stepped in, smoothed over all the rough edges and promised Facchetti he could have his first-team place back and stake once more his major claim to the role of sweeper in Italy's team.

Ironically, an Inter team who had strung three wins together in Facchetti's absence, lost 2-1 to struggling Bologna with him returning!

Rivera, who, after missing another vital penalty against Verona and seeing his club slide from the top of the table, played his 500th first division game in a 5-1 win over poor Fiorentina.

His story is too well-known to need much recapitulation. Suffice it to record that, the son of a railway worker from Alessandria, he made his league debut before he was 16 and — a fact not so well known — played his first game for Milan in June 1960 against the English club, Fulham, in a San Siro friendly.

Ironically his first league game was also in San Siro — but for Alessandria against Internazionale.

To mark his 500th appearance Rivera was presented with a golden ball by the league, though he failed to score in the match which restored some of Milan's confidence, but did the relegation fighters from Florence no good at all.

Only Silvio Piola and Pietro Ferraris have made more first division appearances, and Rivera, with almost 900 games in all including internationals and European club and friendly matches, has probably topped even their overall totals.

Rivera, of course, was Italian football's original Golden Boy, the mantle now worn by Fiorentina's Giancarlo Antognoni. Certainly Antognoni is doing as much as he can to save Fiorentina. Against fellow strugglers Pescara he scored twice in a 3-0 win — the first time in more than 150 top flight matches that he had scored two goals in a game.

As I write Pescara are bottom with nine points, then come Fiorentina with 10 and Bologna with 12 — the latter doing themselves a good turn with a 2-1 win over unpredictable Internazionale, and coming within striking distance of Foggia and Atalanta on 13 points, Genoa and Roma on 14.

Foggia gained a valuable point in holding Juventus 0-0 at home, and the champions' lead at the top of the table is two points over Vicenza and Torino. Milan are fourth with 20.

Juve seemed in all manner of problems when Roberto Boninsegna broke a wrist and Pietro Virdis contracted a mysterious virus.

Dino Zoff in action for Italy against Spain in Madrid. Spain won 2-1

Club Focus

by Jonathan Shallard

Benfica face Liverpool— 'the worst possible . . .'

THE TIME once was, I remember, when club officials in Zurich for the Champions' Cup draw would swallow hard when they heard they'd been set to face Benfica of Lisbon.

They would then console themselves that at least they could make a financial killing out of the home game, even if their chances of progress would now be strictly limited.

How much has changed! Now it's Benfica who are among the worriers, as their reaction to the pairing with holders Liverpool in this year's quarter finals proved.

Skipper Toni, the midfield general whose full name is Antonio Jose da Conceiçao Oliveira, didn't mince his words when he described the draw as "the worst possible."

He went on: "I'm a pessimist by nature. For example, I would never dare say we are going to win a match — though I'm not in the habit of saying we'll lose either. But, to be honest, our chances of going beyond the quarter finals are remote now."

Even before the draw, Benfica's English coach, John Mortimore, has spelled out his wish to avoid Liverpool, Borussia Moenchengladbach and Juventus.

"They're the most dangerous rivals," said the 48-year-old who has been with Benfica almost two years. "The English team, because they're strong and quick; the Germans because they're so determined; and the Italians because they have such an effective team unit."

Toni and Mortimore clearly had a right to be pessimistic, when you consider that Benfica — twice winners of the Champions' Cup and three times losing finalists — only scraped through to the last eight. In the first round they beat Moscow Torpedo 4-1 on penalties after two 0-0 draws, then they beat B1903 Copenhagen only 1-0 home and away. It's a far cry from the days when Benfica's attack was the most prolific in Europe.

Benfica were formed on February 28, 1904, retaining their popular name and becoming the club now officially Sport Lisboa e Benfica three years later after a merger with two other clubs on the other side of the Portuguese capital. The nickname, the Eagles of Lisbon comes from the club crest, and the Portuguese equivalent of Manchester United — their colours too are red and white — have an appropriate motto in '*E pluribus unum*' — one for all and all for one.

The man behind the club was Cosme Damião, a football fanatic who learned the game from English residents and was the dynamic force who launched the club, playing a major part in their first successes as a player, then laying down the policy to which the club still adheres, of refusing to sign any non-Portuguese players.

It's a policy in direct contrast to that of big-spending local rivals of long standing, Sporting Club do Portugal, and it is also a policy which came in for some debate when the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique were granted their independence a few years back. For Benfica's greatest era was born of their brilliant African scouting system which threw up men such as Eusebio, Coluna, Aguas and Costa Pereira to grace the 60,000 capacity Estadio da Luz.

The 'stadium of light' is Benfica's fifth permanent home, after the Feiteira in 1908, the Sete Rios in 1912, Amoreiras in 1925, and then Campo Grande from 1941 until 1954, when on December 1, Benfica moved into their impressive present home.

At that time capacity was 40,000. Now it has been enlarged and provided with excellent floodlights. And though capacity is officially 60,000, it is estimated that crowds of 80,000 have packed the ground for a big match. In fact, the top of the table league clash with Porto a few weeks back brought in 70,000!

But there is more to the Estadio da Luz than football. It's setting emphasises for the visitor the fact that Benfica is more than a one-sport operation — it is a club in all senses of the word. For the park being developed into a sports city for the 60,000 members includes a 4,000-capacity sports hall, four gymnasia, an outstanding medical department, a large restaurant, a garage and workshops, even their own laundry. And besides half a dozen football teams, there are facilities for two dozen other sports, from skin-diving to chess to rugby to basketball.

The club even has its own choral group! And its weekly newspaper has been running since August, 1913.

But of course it was football which has provided the impetus for all this.

And Benfica's record is extraordinary, even when you consider that they are No 1 in a country where the top two or three clubs are streets ahead of the rest.

In the early days, the only organised competition was restricted to clubs in and around Lisbon, and it was in 1910 that Benfica took their first title, winning the Lisbon championship. Since then — to precis their record — they have won the Lisbon event 10 times between 1910 and the last competition in 1947; since the league championship was launched in 1934 they have won a record 23 times; and the Cup, which began in 1938-39, on a record 15 occasions.

Yet if you think that all this outdistancing of their rivals leaves no new ambition, you'd be wrong. For years it has grieved Benfica that despite five times winning the League three years in a row, they have never yet won four titles on the trot — as Sporting did from 1951 to 1954.

And under Mortimore, the former Chelsea centre half, who later managed struggling Portsmouth as well as a variety of Greek clubs, they could at last equal Sporting's achievement this season!

Other clubs in other countries, have exerted similar dominant influences, and it is of course thanks to their campaigns beyond Portugal's borders that Benfica have made themselves one of the world's most famous clubs. Indeed, they were playing international club friendlies as far back as 1912, when they drew 3-3 in Lisbon with Racing Club de Paris. In 1913 they hammered Real Madrid 7-0, and the next year scored a prestige victories over a visiting London team — Ealing Amateurs — 1-0.

After the first world war they made a point of inviting some of Europe's top club teams to Lisbon, including Rapid Vienna, Sparta Prague, Ferencvaros, Barcelona, and in 1936 they thrashed Brentford — who had just finished fifth in the English First Division — by 5-0.

Tragic

The series continued after the second world war — with tragic consequences. One of Benfica's most outstanding players at this time was Francisco Ferreira, a wing half or inside forward, who was granted a testimonial towards the end of season 1948-49.

Ferreira, Benfica's captain, asked the board if they could arrange a game against Torino, then well on course for their fifth successive Italian championship. Ferreira had decided on Torino after captaining Portugal in a 4-1 defeat by Italy in Genoa in February 1949. Seven Torino players had been in the Italian team.

Torino agreed, and flew their full first-team squad to Lisbon for the game — which Benfica won 4-3 — on May 3. The next day, returning home, the plane hit a hill near Turin and everyone was killed . . .

Benfica played no more major international friendlies that year yet, had they known it, international club competition was shortly to become a matter of far more than mere prestige and entertainment. It would quickly become a vital part of the club's finances, an

BENFICA — First team squad
(Professional name indicated in capital letters)

	Born	Previous club	Intl caps (Full-und 21-jnr)
Goal			
Manuel Gairinho BENTO	23-6-48	Barreirense FC	5-6-0
António Henrique Martins FIDALGO	7-11-52	—	0-0-8
JOSE HENRIQUE Rodrigues Marques	18-5-43	—	15-0-0
Defence			
António José BASTOS LOPES	19-12-53	—	0-0-0
HUMBERTO Manuel de Jesus COELHO	20-4-50	—	36-0-8
EURICO Monteiro Gomes	29-9-56	—	0-7-6
ALBERTO Gomes da Fonseca Junior	22-8-56	—	0-5-6
Minervino Jose Lopes PIETRA	1-3-54	Belenenses	7-4-2
Adriano dos Santos SPENCER	11-2-59	Almada Atletico Clube	0-0-8
Midfield			
AnTÓNio José da Conceição Oliveira	14-10-46	C. A. Coimbra	30-5-1
Manuel Francisco Salvador (CAVUNGI)	1-2-57	GRD Terra Nova	0-0-8
SHEU Han	3-8-53	S. L. Beira	1-6-10
JOSÉ LUIS Lopes da Costa e Silva	17-5-58	—	0-3-9
Joaquim Miguel Pedreirinho PEREIRINHA	26-11-58	—	0-0-17
JORGE Manuel Lopes da Silva	23-11-54	—	0-0-10
MARIO Valdez WILSON	25-4-52	A. C. Portugal	0-0-0
Forwards			
CELSO Manuel Carvalho Ramos Pita	22-2-54	Boavista	0-0-0
Tamagnini Manuel Gomes Batista NENE	20-11-49	—	31-0-2
VITOR Manuel Ferreira BATISTA	18-10-48	Vitoria F.C.	11-0-6
Fernando Albino de Sousa CHALANA	10-2-59	—	4-3-12
Armando RUI Augusto LOPES	17-3-54	—	0-0-10
DIAMANTINO Manuel Fernandes Miranda	3-8-59	Vitoria F.C.	0-0-17
João Lourenço Carapeta MARGAÇA	24-4-59	—	0-0-8
JOSÉ ANTÓNIO Prudêncio Conde Bargiela	29-10-57	—	0-0-10

integral part of the triumphs which have seen nearly 4,000 trophies accumulated in the club's headquarters.

The first hint of what was to come came with the Latin Cup, for which Benfica, as Portuguese champions, competed in the summer of 1950 with Bordeaux, Lazio and Atletico Madrid.

As luck would have it, the tournament was played in Lisbon, Benfica beating Lazio 3-0 in the semi-finals, then Bordeaux 2-1 in a replayed final thanks to a goal five minutes from the end of extra *extra* time! The first match had finished 3-3. Benfica's stars were the young goalkeeper Jose Bastos, and the lively forward Daniel Julio, who scored the winner.

For the next four years Sporting dominated in Portugal, and it was only with the arrival of a chubby Brazilian coach, Otto Gloria, that Benfica managed to break the monopoly. Gloria would later return to Benfica, after taking Portugal to third place in the 1966 World Cup, but this was perhaps a better time for him. Less was expected of Benfica — the reputation was still being forged.

Runners-up in the 1956 championship — they have never been lower than fourth — Benfica competed again in the Latin Cup. But they lost 4-2 in the semi-finals to hosts Milan, before beating Nice 2-1 in the third place match. They were in the Latin Cup the next year too — this time in Madrid, in the competition's last tournament. Benfica beat Saint-Etienne, (who included Kees Rijvers now coach of PSV Eindhoven, at inside left) by 1-0 in the semi-finals; then they went down by that same narrow margin in a wonderful final against Real Madrid, the hosts, which could have gone either way.

Alfredo di Stefano scored the goal for the European champions, five minutes into the second half.

The Latin Cup was now dead. It had been superseded by the European Champions' Cup, and a couple more years and Benfica would be succeeding Madrid. But first, some changes had to be made.

Benfica had gone out to Sevilla in the first round in their first attempt on the Champions' Cup in 1957-58. But already the young players were coming through who would form the foundations of the team triumphant in 1961 and 1962.

Men such as left back Angelo (full name Angelo Gaspar Martins), left winger Cavem (Domiciano Barrocal Gomes Cavem), and two outstanding forwards in Jose Pinto Carvalho Santos Aguas, and Mario Esteves Coluna.

Born in 1931, Aguas was discovered in Angola. The story goes that he was famed as a lion-hunter, but after being drafted in as an emergency choice for a local football game, never looked back, going on to become an extremely intelligent and elusive centre forward who won 26 caps for Portugal as well as becoming Benfica captain.

The coloured inside left, Coluna, five years younger than Aguas, was destined to become one of Europe's outstanding footballers of the 1960s. Discovered in Mozambique he followed Aguas as Benfica captain and became a midfield general *par excellence*. While Eusebio would steal all the glory, much of the credit for Benfica's consistency in the 1960s is really due to Coluna.

Erratic

Slowly the new team was forming. An outstanding, if erratic goalkeeper in Alberto da Costa Pereira, was signed and out of Africa came yet another useful forward, Joaquin Santana. Promising right winger Jose Augusto was signed from Barreirense . . . and, most important of all, a 61-year-old Hungarian named Bela Guttman was appointed coach in place of Gloria.

Guttman was something of a magician. He had worked throughout Europe and in Brazil and this group of impressionable young players with unlimited potential were ripe for the guidance and instruction he could provide.

Immediately he scrapped Gloria's 4-2-4 and reverted to the WM formation. He was able to do so because he possessed the ideal players for the scheme — hard-working inside forwards in Santana and Coluna, speedy wingers in Jose Augusto and Cavem, hard-working wing halves in Jose Antonio Neto and Fernando Cruz and a superb central defender in the balding Germano de Figueiredo.

Benfica won the championship in 1960 — losing only once, in the last game — then ripped through Hearts, Ujpest, Aarhus and Rapid Vienna after a violent second leg to become the first Portuguese team to reach the Champion's Cup Final. Their opponents in Berne were Barcelona, earlier conquerors of five-times champions Real Madrid, and Benfica were the rank outsiders.

Thus it was no surprise when Sandor Kocsis headed the Spanish side ahead after quarter of an hour. But it was a surprise when the Barcelona defence twice cracked before the interval to allow first an equaliser from Aguas, then a stupid own goal concocted by goalkeeper Antonio Ramallets and defender Enrique Gensana.

Barcelona tore back at Benfica in the second half. It seemed they must equalise, but instead Coluna rammed in a tremendous drive from 25 yards, and after that even a late goal by Zoltan Czibor — he and Kocsis on the losing side again in Berne as in the 1954 World Cup — was not enough.

Benfica were champions of Europe.

There were plenty of detractors, to say they had an easy draw, and then all the luck in the world in the final. That Real Madrid would have beaten them, even if Barcelona couldn't.

But the next year Benfica *did* meet Real in the final, were 2-0 and later 3-2 down, and hammered back in Amsterdam to beat the old masters 5-3 in one of the last classic finals seen in the Champions' Cup. This time of course, Benfica had more than fortune on their side — they had Eusebio!

The 'brown bomber' of football, another Mozambique product, joined Benfica at the time of the win over Barcelona. A couple of weeks later he made a thunder-stealing debut against Pele's Santos FC in the Paris tournament, and the following season he unleashed on European club football shooting of a power and zest which would both reach a climax and begin to wane, in the 1966 World Cup Finals.

WORLD CUP CO

NO ONE went home radiant with happiness after France fought back from 2-0 down to earn a draw with Italy in Naples.

This rehearsal for one of the opening round World Cup games seemed doomed to disappointment from long before the kick-off.

The match was arranged before the World Cup draw put the teams in the same group. So there was panic, particularly among Italian officials, about whether to carry on with the match, or maybe switch it to France. In the usual paranoid way they feared a defeat would give the French a psychological advantage in Argentina.

Eventually, it was decided to go ahead as planned.

But on the eve of the game neither manager nor the local fans were satisfied.

Bearzot found centre forward Paolo Rossi, midfielder Renato Faccarelli and forward Franco Causio unfit after the weekend league programme, while Roberto Bettega was struggling. He was also unwilling to pick skipper Giacinto Facchetti because of his lack of match practice.

The solution, to replace Rossi with Torino's Francesco Graziani and Zaccarelli with Milan's Romeo Benetti provoked a storm of protest from Napoli fans. They thought Beppe Savoldi deserved a run in the No. 9 shirt, and that Benetti wasn't worth his place after his rugged display in the Napoli-Milan match.

From the other camp, France boss Michel Hidalgo was rueing the absence through injury of his best wingers Dominique Rocheteau and Didier Six.

Hidalgo's pessimism seemed borne out when Italy went two ahead in 25 minutes, and then again when France had a Platini special — a goal from a direct free kick — disallowed on the hour. Also with the way the Italians took apart the right flank of his defence in the opening half-hour.

Francesco Graziani of Italy

In the unlucky 13th minute Marco Tardelli, who had already launched several dangerous raids, forged his way into the penalty box. France skipper Marius Tresor moved across to tackle and scramble the ball away . . . and was astounded when Spanish referee Franco Martinez awarded a penalty.

Graziani converted easily enough, and with French morale sagging, the Italians ruled the match. Goalkeeper Andre Rey did well to parry a close-range Bettega shot, but in the 23rd minute Claudio Sala's cross created an easy headed second for Graziani.

The second half saw both teams bring on substitutes. But Hidalgo's introduction of veteran schemer Henri Michel and newcomer Albert Gemmerich on the wing for Olivier Rouyer were the more successful.

France were the more aggressive team now, and deserved Dominique Bathenay's 56th minute goal, when he headed in Gemmerich's corner. The Italian defenders stood around in most unusual fashion!

Four minutes later Platini — along with Tresor, France's best man — swerved a free kick round the wall and up past Dino Zoff. French jubilation was short-lived. The controversial senor Martinez ruled that he had not signalled for the kick to be taken. But just to prove this no fluke, Platini repeated the trick nine minutes from time and once again badly-placed Zoff was beaten all ends up.

He is having an unhappy season.

The last time Italy and France met shortly before a World Cup was in 1934, when the Italians went on to take the prize. They are putting their faith in another omen this year, for in Buenos Aires they will use as HQ the spacious and luxurious Hindu Club used by Internazionale and Milan before their world club cup triumphs in the sixties.

Meanwhile what an interesting comparison the match provided between Platini and Antognoni.

Both have their heads full of the future. Antognoni, on the one hand, faces the rest of the season knowing that whether Fiorentina struggle clear of the relegation zone largely depends on him. And if he fails to take them to safety, that might cool the long-standing big-money interest of Milan, Inter and Juventus.

The road to Argentina . . . all the qualifying round results

AFRICA

Extra Preliminary Round

7. 3.76	Freetown	Sierra Leone v Niger	5:1 (1:1)	4,250
21. 3.76	Niamey	Niger v. Sierra Leone	2:1 (1:1)	1,641
13. 3.76	Ouagadougou	Upper Volta v. Mauritania	1:1 (1:0)	3,323
28. 3.76	Nouakchott	Mauritania v. Upper Volta	0:2 (0:1)	—

Sierra Leone and Upper Volta qualified for First Round

First Round

1. 4.76	Algiers	Algeria v. Libya	1:0 (0:0)	15,267
16. 4.76	Tripoli	Libya v. Algeria	0:0 (0:0)	30,000
12.12.76	Casablanca	Morocco v. Tunisia	1:1 (1:0)	13,056
9. 1.77	Tunis	Tunisia v. Morocco	1:1 (1:0)	44,500
		Kicks from the penalty mark:	4:2	44,500
17.10.76	Lomé	Togo v. Senegal	1:0 (0:0)	5,173
31.10.76	Dakar	Senegal v. Togo	1:1 (0:0)	7,000
10.10.76	Accra	Ghana v. Guinea	2:1 (0:0)	10,000
31.10.76	Conakry	Guinea v. Ghana	2:1 (0:0)	20,000
(3rd match):				
16. 1.77	Lomé	Ghana v. Guinea	0:2 (0:2)	13,452

		Zaire v. Central Africa	Central Africa withdrew	
		Central Africa v. Zaire		
16.10.76	Freetown	Sierra Leone v. Nigeria	0:0 (0:0)	5,173
30.10.76	Lagos	Nigeria v. Sierra Leone	6:2 (4:0)	—
17.10.76	Brazzaville	Congo v. Cameroon	2:2 (0:2)	—
31.10.76	Yaoundé	Cameroon v. Congo (Match abandoned at 82')	1:2 (1:1)	26,050
4. 9.76	Ouagadougou	Upper Volta v. Ivory Coast	1:1 (0:1)	5,416
26. 9.76	Abidjan	Ivory Coast v. Upper Volta	2:0 (2:0)	5,960
20.10.76	Cairo	Egypt v. Ethiopia	3:0 (2:0)	20,000
14.11.76	Addis Ababa	Ethiopia v. Egypt	1:2 (1:1)	50,000
		Sudan v. Kenya		
		Kenya v. Sudan	Sudan withdrew	
		Uganda v. Tanzania		
		Tanzania v. Uganda	Tanzania withdrew	
9. 5.76	Lusaka	Zambia v. Malawi	4:0 (2:0)	16,000
30. 5.76	Blantyre	Malawi v. Zambia	0:1 (0:0)	8,230

Second Round

6. 2.77	Tunis	Tunisia v. Algeria	2:0 (0:0)	39,987
26. 2.77	Algiers	Algeria v. Tunisia	1:1 (1:0)	80,000
13. 2.77	Lomé	Togo v. Guinea	0:2 (0:1)	7,076
27. 2.77	Conakry	Guinea v. Togo	2:1 (2:0)	—
		Zaire v. Nigeria		
		Nigeria v. Zaire	Zaire withdrew	
13. 2.77	Bouaké	Ivory Coast v. Congo	3:2 (2:1)	3,000
27. 2.77	Brazzaville	Congo v. Ivory Coast	1:3 (1:2)	70,000
6. 2.77	Nairobi	Kenya v. Egypt	0:0 (0:0)	8,337
27. 2.77	Cairo	Egypt v. Kenya	1:0 (1:0)	70,000
13. 2.77	Kampala	Uganda v. Zambia	1:0 (0:0)	—
27. 2.77	Ndola	Zambia v. Uganda	4:2 (2:1)	20,000

Third Round

5. 6.77	Conakry	Guinea v. Tunisia	1:0 (0:0)	25,000
19. 6.77	Tunis	Tunisia v. Guinea	3:1 (1:1)	35,248
10. 7.77	Lagos	Nigeria v. Ivory Coast	4:0 (3:0)	29,815
24. 7.77	Bouaké	Ivory Coast v. Nigeria	2:2 (1:0)	2,040
15. 7.77	Cairo	Egypt v. Zambia	2:0 (1:0)	—
31. 7.77	Lusaka	Zambia v. Egypt	0:0 (0:0)	30,166

UNTDOWN

Argentina'78

First of a new monthly series on the 16 World Cup Finalists

Platini meanwhile, having said just before Christmas that he would stay with Nancy when his contract expires in the summer of 1979, has had a change of heart.

Soon after hitting four goals and making two more in a shock 7-3 win over leaders Nice, Platini announced he had received an offer from abroad so massive there was no way he could turn it down.

He will thus be leaving next year, or maybe before. Who are the club? If it's Spain, favourites are Valencia — otherwise it is probably either Juventus or Inter banking on Italy reopening the frontiers to foreign stars.

Italy: Zoff — Scirea — Gentile, Beluqi, Maldera — Benetti, Tardelli, Antognoni (P. Sala 72) — C. Sala, Graziani, Bettega (Pulici 54).

France: Rey — Janvion, Rio (Lopez 74), Trésor, Bossis — Guillou (Michel half-time), Platini, Bathenay — Dalger, Lacombe, Rouyer (Gemmerich 30).

ARGENTINA

WITH three months to the start of the World Cup, the hosts' prospects are looking more and more bleak — particularly since the pay row which sparked the walk-out of skipper and left back Jorge Carrascosa and Boca Juniors' goalkeeper Hugo Gatti.

Both men were upset that dollar bonus payments have already been agreed with the three European-based stars manager Cesar Luis Menotti wishes to recall, but that the home players have yet to be told their pay rates.

Meanwhile there is confusion over Menotti's intentions regarding Osvaldo Piazza (Saint-Etienne), Quique Wolff (Real Madrid) and Mario Kempes (Valencia). Menotti wants Piazza and Wolff home by March 15 to join his preparations, but not Kempes, whom he feels knows his ideas well enough.

It is patently absurd to believe that Saint-Etienne and Real Madrid will release their top defenders before the climax of their league season, and so it seems Menotti may have to go through with his threat to ignore them if they do not make the deadline.

In that case, the protest withdrawals of Carrascosa and Gatti would appear wastefully harmful.

Menotti could even be forced to recall River Plate's 1966 veteran, Roberto Perfumo, for the two central defenders he has already are both concerned in transfer wrangling. The one is Daniel Killer, for whom Rosario Central say they haven't yet been paid a peso by Racing Buenos Aires; the other is Jorge Mario Olguin, who may shortly leave San Lorenzo for River Plate despite the mild disinterest of River coach Angel Labruna.

And, on the sidelines, stands Boca coach Juan Carlos Lorenzo, assuring all and sundry that he's with Menotti all the way, and all the while gently picking out the flaws.

No wonder Menotti is determined to quit after the finals. Independiente, the new national champions, are favourites.

In the meantime, Menotti got his squad together at Mar de Plata on February 15, and they face this programme of warm-up games: March 15, v Brazil (Buenos Aires — Copa Roca); March 23, v Brazil (Rio — Copa Roca); March 29, v Bulgaria; April 5, v Rumania; April 12, v Portugal. The return against Chile for the Copa Carlos Dittborn may also be fitted in, as well as tests against club sides.

The venues for the Bulgaria, Rumania and Portugal games have yet to be fixed, but they could be used to inaugurate some of the new and refurbished stadia which will stage the World Cup.

The original 22 names by Menotti for the Mar del Plata get-together were: Hugo Gatti, Ubaldo Fillol, Hector Baley — Alberto Tarantini, Ruben Paganini, Daniel Killer, Armando Capurro, Daniel Passarella, Jorge Olguin, Victor Bottaniz — Osvaldo Ardiles, Omar Larrosa, Americo Gallego, Ruben Galvan, Miguel Angel Oviedo, Ricardo Villa, Jose Daniel Valencia — Rene Houseman, Leopoldo Luque, Humberto Rafael Bravo, Daniel Bertoni, Oscar Ortiz.

Also called up were youth team regulars Hugo Cesar Alves, and Diego Maradona.

● *Continued overleaf*

The road to Argentina . . . all the qualifying round results

Concluding Matches

25. 9.77	Tunis	Tunisia v. Nigeria	0:0 (0:0)	38,229
8.10.77	Lagos	Nigeria v. Egypt	4:0 (1:0)	—
21.10.77	Cairo	Egypt v. Nigeria	3:1 (2:0)	90,000
12.11.77	Lagos	Nigeria v. Tunisia	0:1 (0:0)	80,000
25.11.77	Cairo	Egypt v. Tunisia	3:2 (1:0)	42,850
11.12.77	Tunis	Tunisia v. Egypt	4:1 (2:0)	120,000

Classification:								
1. Tunisia	4	2	1	1	7:4	5
2. Egypt	4	2	0	2	7:11	4
3. Nigeria	4	1	1	2	5:4	3
	12	5	2	5	19:19	12

AMERICA — North and Central and Caribbean (CONCACAF)

Northern Area

24. 9.76	Vancouver	Canada v. USA	1:1 (0:1)	15,543
3.10.76	Los Angeles	USA v. Mexico	0:0 (0:0)	33,000
10.10.76	Vancouver	Canada v. Mexico	1:0 (1:0)	17,939
16.10.76	Puebla	Mexico v. USA	3:0 (2:0)	35,000
20.10.76	Seattle	USA v. Canada	2:0 (2:0)	17,675
27.10.76	Toluca	Mexico v. Canada	0:0 (0:0)	26,719

Classification:						
1. Mexico	4	1	2	1	3:1	4
2.-3. Canada	4	1	2	1	2:3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3:4	4
	12	3	6	3	8:8	12

Play-off:

22.12.76	Port-au-Prince	USA v. Canada	0:3 (0:1)	—

Mexico and Canada qualified for Final Round

Central Area

4. 4.76	Panama City	Panama v. Costa Rica	3:2 (0:1)	3,477
2. 5.76	Panama City	Panama v. El Salvador	1:1 (0:1)	7,345
11. 7.76	San Jose	Costa Rica v. Panama	3:0 (3:0)	20,336
1. 8.76	San Salvador	El Salvador v. Panama	4:1 (2:0)	36,440
17. 9.76	Panama City	Panama v. Guatemala	2:4 (2:0)	—
26. 9.76	Guatemala City	Guatemala v. Panama	7:0 (3:0)	20,010
1.12.76	San Salvador	El Salvador v. Costa Rica	1:1 (1:0)	—
5.12.76	San Jose	Costa Rica v. Guatemala	0:0 (0:0)	19,596
8.12.76	Guatemala City	Guatemala v. El Salvador	3:1 (2:1)	30,535
12.12.76	Guatemala City	Guatemala v. Costa Rica	1:1 (0:0)	24,363
15.12.76	San Jose	Costa Rica v. El Salvador	1:1 (1:0)	16,310
19.12.76	San Salvador	El Salvador v. Guatemala	2:0 (2:0)	—

Classification:						
1. Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15:6	8
2. El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10:7	7
3. Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8:6	6
4. Panama	6	1	1	4	7:21	3
	24	7	10	7	40:40	24

Extra Preliminary Round

2. 4.76	Santo Domingo	Dom. Republic v. Haiti	0:3 (0:0)	—
17. 4.76	Port-au-Prince	Haiti v. Dom. Republic	3:0 (2:0)	19,478

Haiti qualified for First Round

First Round

4. 7.76	Georgetown	Guyana v. Surinam	2:0 (1:0)	12,000
29. 8.76	Paramaribo	Surinam v. Guyana	3:0 (2:0)	13,500
15. 8.76	Bridgetown	Barbados v. Trinidad/Tobago	2:1 (0:0)	5,000
31. 8.76	Port of Spain	Trinidad/Tobago v. Barbados	1:0 (1:0)	15,976
(2nd match):				
14. 9.76	Port of Spain	Trinidad/Tobago v. Barbados	3:1 (1:1)	4,198
31. 7.76	Aruba	Netherl. Antilles v. Haiti	1:2 (0:2)	5,333
14. 8.76	Port-au-Prince	Haiti v. Netherl. Antilles	7:0 (4:0)	10,646

● *Continued overleaf*

The road to Argentina . . . all the qualifying round results

15. 8.76	Kingston	Jamaica v. Cuba	1:3 (0:1)	13,000
29. 8.76	Havana	Cuba v. Jamaica	2:0 (1:0)	30,000
Second Round				
14.11.76	Paramaribo	Surinam v. Trinidad/Tobago	1:1 (1:1)	—
28.11.76	Port of Spain	Trinidad/Tobago v. Surinam	2:2 (1:1)	23,250
(3rd match):				
18.12.76	Cayenne	Trinidad/Tobago v. Surinam	2:3 (0:1)	—
28.11.76	Havana	Cuba v. Haiti	1:1 (1:0)	—
11.12.76	Port-au-Prince	Haiti v. Cuba	1:1 (0:0)	20,000
(3rd match):				
29.12.76	Panama City	Cuba v. Haiti	0:2 (0:0)	—
Final Round				
8.10.77	Monterrey	Guatemala v. Surinam	3:2 (2:1)	—
8.10.77	Monterrey	Canada v. El Salvador	1:2 (0:1)	42,000
9.10.77	Mexico City	Mexico v. Haiti	4:1 (1:0)	108,000
12.10.77	Mexico City	Canada v. Surinam	2:1 (1:1)	90,000
12.10.77	Mexico City	Mexico v. El Salvador	3:1 (1:0)	110,000
12.10.77	Monterrey	Guatemala v. Haiti	1:2 (0:2)	13,465
15.10.77	Monterrey	Mexico v. Surinam	8:1 (3:1)	82,000
16.10.77	Mexico City	El Salvador v. Haiti	0:1 (0:1)	—
16.10.77	Mexico City	Canada v. Guatemala	2:1 (2:0)	25,000
19.10.77	Mexico City	Mexico v. Guatemala	2:1 (1:1)	110,000
20.10.77	Monterrey	El Salvador v. Surinam	3:2 (1:0)	—
20.10.77	Monterrey	Canada v. Haiti	1:1 (0:0)	30,000
22.10.77	Monterrey	Mexico v. Canada	3:1 (2:1)	55,000
23.10.77	Mexico City	Guatemala v. El Salvador	2:2 (0:1)	—
23.10.77	Mexico City	Haiti v. Surinam	1:0 (1:0)	—

Classification:							
1. Mexico	5	5	0	0	20:5		10
2. Haiti	5	3	1	1	6:6		7
3. Canada	5	2	1	2	7:8		5
4. El Salvador	5	2	1	2	8:9		5
5. Guatemala	5	1	1	3	8:10		3
6. Surinam	5	0	0	5	6:17		0
	30	13	4	13	55:55		30

AMERICA SOUTH — CONMEBOL

Group 1 (Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia):				
20. 3.77	Bogota	Colombia v. Brazil	0:0 (0:0)	55,439
24. 3.77	Bogota	Colombia v. Paraguay	0:1 (0:1)	—
6. 3.77	Asuncion	Paraguay v. Colombia	1:1 (0:0)	30,154
9. 3.77	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil v. Colombia	6:0 (4:0)	132,754
13. 3.77	Asuncion	Paraguay v. Brazil	0:1 (0:0)	40,490
20. 3.77	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil v. Paraguay	1:1 (1:0)	94,947

Classification:							
1. Brazil	4	2	2	0	8:1		6
2. Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3:3		4
3. Colombia	4	0	2	2	1:8		2
	12	3	6	3	12:12		12

Group 2 (Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivia):				
9. 2.77	Caracas	Venezuela v. Uruguay	1:1 (0:1)	5,000
27. 2.77	La Paz	Bolivia v. Uruguay	1:0 (0:0)	20,306
6. 3.77	Caracas	Venezuela v. Bolivia	1:3 (0:1)	5,034
13. 3.77	La Paz	Bolivia v. Venezuela	2:0 (2:0)	21,217
17. 3.77	Montevideo	Uruguay v. Venezuela	2:0 (1:0)	4,383
27. 3.77	Montevideo	Uruguay v. Bolivia	2:2 (1:1)	7,477

Classification:							
1. Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8:3		7
2. Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5:4		4
3. Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2:8		1
	12	4	4	4	15:15		12

HUNGARY

Lajos Baroti remains among the most experienced of World Cup bosses, having led a team in the finals on three previous occasions, going back to 1958.

And, despite the draw which places Hungary in the tough group one, he was optimistic enough to say in Buenos Aires recently that he thought his new young team capable of beating all but four or five of the other finalists.

Now 64, Baroti said his only team worry was whether midfielder Tibor Nyilasi would stand the stress of the finals after two years starred with injury and illness.

He also hinted that the Hungarians, as in England in 1966, would not take their full complement of 22 players with them, but only 18.

At least the Hungarians don't have to worry about the pressure facing some of their rivals. No Hungarian clubs remain in the European club competitions. . . .

MEXICO

LOOK OUT West Germany — that's the warning from Franz Beckenbauer.

Deposed Kaiser Franz thinks the Mexicans could be one of the surprise teams of the finals — and so do fellow countrymen Günter Netzer and Helmut Johannesen.

The latter pair brought Grasshoppers of Zurich out on tour during the Swiss winter break and they were hammered 8-0 by Mexico! Hugo Sanchez, 19, stole the limelight from Leonard Cuellar and Victor Rangel, by scoring four times.

Netzer, who went off injured after an hour, said later: "They were good, and a surprise. We expected them to play the South American way, instead there was a great deal of European style and effort about them."

That was one bright spot in a bad week for Mexico manager Jose Antonio Roca. A few days before he was dismissed as manager of Atletico Espanol and replaced by Uruguayan Dugoberto Moll. Club officials felt they couldn't afford the luxury of a part-time manager — even to aid the World Cup cause.

Roca, incidentally, claimed recently that Spain were the best team in Europe. That surprised even the Spaniards!

Despite Sanchez's success against Grasshoppers Cuellar remains the star. Once knocked out in a game by a Roberto Rivelino punch, he's an unmistakable figure with his bushy Afro hair-style and Fidel Castro beard.

To suggestions that a haircut before the finals might improve his image, he replied: "What's my image got to do with it? It's how I play football that matters."

POLAND

THE big surprise in Jacek Gmoch's basic squad of 17 was the recall of 28-year-old Jerzy Gorgon, the blond giant who was so impressive in 1974, when the Poles finished third.

Gorgon has missed most of the international programme since then after injuries and a suspension for misbehaviour on a club tour abroad.

He's not the only surprise Gornik man in line for a World Cup place. Also prominent in Gmoch's thoughts is 17-year-old Joachim Hutka, now in his second season in senior soccer. Hutka has been called the new Lubanski, though the old one is still around!

It was thought Gmoch might ignore him for the finals so as not to be a disturbing influence on young players who also fancy their chances of earning good money in the West – Lubanski is, of course, with Lokeren in Belgium.

Gmoch has ordered a stop on all transfer talk, which means that Henryk Kasperczak's move to Xamax Neuchatel is again held up. Midfielder Kasperczak, 31, has won 55 caps. But Poland's most experienced man remains skipper Kazimierz Deyna, with his 92 caps. Deyna could be celebrating a century this summer.

Footballer of the year is Grzegorz Lato, top scorer of course in the 1974 finals. Lato's choice for the most dangerous World Cup rivals? – Holland.

Gmoch has included eight of the team who finished third in West Germany among the 17 players already standing ready to go to Argentina. The 17: Jan Tomaszewski – Władysław Żmuda, Henryk Maculewicz, Henryk Wieczorek, Antoni Szymanowski, Jerzy Gorgon, Wojciech Rudy, Henryk Wawrowski – Kazimierz Deyna, Henryk Kasperczak, Zbigniew Boniek, Adam Nawałka, Bogdan Maszczler – Grzegorz Lato, Andrzej Szarmach, Włodek Lubanski, Stanisław Terlecki.

TUNISIA

RECOGNITION of Tunisia's feat in reaching the Finals for the first time came when 23-year-old midfielder Dhiab Tarak was named African footballer of the year.

Tarak, who plays for Esperance of Tunis, was chosen in the annual ballot run by the Paris magazine *France Football*, who have taken great interest in African soccer over the past few years.

But not such good news came in the latest batch of FIFA suspensions.

Because of a couple of yellow cards in the qualifiers, defender Khaled Gasmi has been banned from Tunisia's opening match against Mexico in Rosario.

Coach Majid Chetali is eagerly awaiting his group two battle of wits with Helmut Schoen later on. Chetali, a great admirer of West German soccer, gained much of his coaching expertise from courses run in the Federal Republic by Hennes Weisweiler.

Even Chetali's wife is German.

WEST GERMANY

THE will-he-won't-he saga surrounding Franz Beckenbaur's possible reappearance for the World Cup is virtually settled.

And manager Helmut Schoen is likely to decide against recalling his 1974 winning

The road to Argentina . . . all the qualifying round results

Group 3 (Chile, Peru, Ecuador):

20. 2.77	Quito	Ecuador v. Peru	1:1 (0:1)	—
27. 2.77	Guayaquil	Ecuador v. Chile	0:1 (0:1)	51,200
6. 3.77	Santiago	Chile v. Peru	1:1 (1:0)	67,983
12. 3.77	Lima	Peru v. Ecuador	4:0 (1:0)	43,319
20. 3.77	Santiago	Chile v. Ecuador	3:0 (2:0)	15,571
26. 3.77	Lima	Peru v. Chile	2:0 (0:0)	82,000

Classification:

1. Peru	4	2	2	0	8:2	6
2. Chile	4	2	1	1	5:3	5
3. Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1:9	1
	12	4	4	4	14:14	12

Group Winners Tournament

10. 7.77	Cali	Brazil v. Peru	1:0 (0:0)	56,345
14. 7.77	Cali	Brazil v. Bolivia	8:0 (4:0)	38,027
17. 7.77	Cali	Peru v. Bolivia	5:0 (2:0)	32,511

Classification:

1. Brazil	2	2	0	0	9:0	4
2. Peru	2	1	0	1	5:1	2
3. Bolivia	2	0	0	2	0:13	0
	6	3	0	3	14:14	6

ASIA/OCEANIA

Asia Group 1 (Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka withdrew 13.11.75)

27. 2.77	Singapore	Singapore v. Thailand	2:0 (0:0)	50,445
28. 2.77	Singapore	Hong Kong v. Indonesia	4:1 (0:1)	31,991
1. 3.77	Singapore	Malaysia v. Thailand	6:4 (4:1)	42,460
2. 3.77	Singapore	Hong Kong v. Singapore	2:2 (1:1)	63,048
3. 3.77	Singapore	Indonesia v. Malaysia	0:0 (0:0)	40,852
5. 3.77	Singapore	Thailand v. Hong Kong	1:2 (0:0)	38,106
6. 3.77	Singapore	Singapore v. Malaysia	1:0 (1:0)	60,124
7. 3.77	Singapore	Thailand v. Indonesia	3:2 (2:1)	22,980
8. 3.77	Singapore	Malaysia v. Hong Kong	1:1 (1:1)	48,404
9. 3.77	Singapore	Indonesia v. Singapore	4:0 (3:0)	45,160

Classification:

1. Hong Kong	4	2	2	0	9:5	6
2. Singapore	4	2	1	1	5:6	5
3. Malaysia	4	1	2	1	7:6	4
4. Indonesia	4	1	1	2	7:7	3
5. Thailand	4	1	0	3	8:12	2
	20	7	6	7	36:36	20

Final match:

12. 3.77	Singapore	Singapore v. Hong Kong	0:1 (0:1)	60,248

Asia Group 2 (Israel, Japan, DPR Korea withdrew, Korea Rep.)

27. 2.77	Tel Aviv	Israel v. Korea Rep.	0:0 (0:0)	24,400
6. 3.77	Tel Aviv	Israel v. Japan	2:0 (1:0)	9,300
10. 3.77	Tel Aviv	Japan v. Israel	0:2 (0:1)	7,300
20. 3.77	Seoul	Korea Rep. v. Israel	3:1 (1:0)	—
26. 3.77	Tokyo	Japan v. Korea Rep.	0:0 (0:0)	9,153
3. 4.77	Seoul	Korea Rep. v. Japan	1:0 (0:0)	35,000

Classification:

1. Korea Rep.	4	2	2	0	4:1	6
2. Israel	4	2	1	1	5:3	5
3. Japan	4	0	1	3	0:5	1
	12	4	4	4	9:9	12

Asia Group 3 (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria withdrew 4.3.77)

12.11.76	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia v. Syria	2:0 (1:0)	19,750
26.11.76	Damascus	Syria v. Saudi Arabia	2:1 (1:1)	4,000
7. 1.77	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia v. Iran	0:3 (0:1)	30,000
28. 1.77	Damascus	Syria v. Iran	0:1 (0:1)	30,000
6. 4.77		Iran v. Syria	2:0 (forfeit)	Syria withdrew
22. 4.77	Shiraz	Iran v. Saudi Arabia	2:0 (1:0)	6,178

captain, even though New York Cosmos are ready to release him to play in Argentina.

Cosmos wanted a £400,000 insurance down-payment originally, but though the DFB have agreed terms, Cosmos are adamant they can't free their star for Schoen's preparatory sessions.

Schoen also has some concern about his outside left position. The Press and fans have thrown plenty of suggestions at him — two involving the switching of outside rights much in the news lately. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Bayern has recently agreed a new £90,000-a-year contract, while Rudiger Abramczik says he wants to leave Schalke, where his approach play has proved so valuable to Klaus Fischer.

Fischer is among favourites to win the Adidas golden shoe offered to the top scorer in the finals, and has also been tipped as a transfer target for a Barcelona seeking to replace Cruyff.

Finally, there is now doubt about whether right back Berti Vogts will take up the post he had been expecting on the DFB coaching staff when he retires. He could instead become one of Udo Lattek's assistants with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

BRAZIL

MANAGER Claudio Coutinho has made it clear that of all Brazil's rivals, he fears Holland and West Germany the most.

But for the time being he has other problems, not least to persuade his players that Mar del Plata originally, later decided it would be too cold and windy in June and wanted to switch to Mendoza. But only Mar del Plata has the required hotel accommodation so FIFA president Joao Havelange and Coutinho have been doing their best to calm unrest.

Lucrative sponsorship deals have been tied up, but do nothing to solve the dilemma over whether sweeper Luiz Pereira will be freed in good time by Atletico Madrid; whether Francisco Marinho can recapture his 1974 form; or whether Roberto Rivelino will be handicapped by the unfortunate lack of competitive club football from here on in.

At least young Zico, Brazilian football's top scorer for the past two years, is confident. He's had a dream, he says, in which he scores the winning goal in the final against Argentina.

Brazil come to Europe on tour in April, and these are the dates confirmed: April 1 v France (Paris); April 5 v West Germany (Hamburg); April 13 v Internazionale (Milan); April 19 v England (Wembley).

The squad of 29 from which Coutinho will name his final 22 is the following: Leao, Carlos, Raul — Toninho, Nelinho, Ze Maria, Luiz Pereira, Amaral, Oscar, Rontinelli, F. Marinho — Edinho, Rodrigues Neto, Odirlei, Toninho Cerezo, Battista, Rivelino, Dirceu,

● *Continued overleaf*

AUSTRIA

IF their track record is anything to go by, Austria's World Cup footballers won't make much money out of their success.

Sweeper Edy Krieger, for example, a key defender with Belgian champions Brugge, didn't show his normal sound judgment when he bought a large packet of shares in a South African gold mine. The investment turned sour, and Krieger lost his money!

Midfielder Hansi Pirkner has multiple business interests, including a driving school. But soccer has taken up so much time in the past year that the man who taught Annemarie Moser, the women's world ski champion, to slalom on four wheels has had to hand over the tuition.

The Austrians remain remarkably confident, in particular MSV Duisburg's Kurt Jara, who believes from his experience in Spain that the Austrians can easily get the better of the Spaniards, despite the possible absence of the injured Sepp Stering. Jara's ego has been swelled by praise from Jupp Derwall, Helmut Schoen's ordained successor, while centre forward Hans Krankl maintained his confidence with a hat-trick in Rapid Vienn's 6-0 win over Linzer ASK.

Adding to Austria's sense of modest invincibility are the facts that team boss Helmut Senekowitsch knows the Spanish mentality from his spell playing for Betis Seville, while general administrator Max Merkel worked as coach with both Sevilla and Atletico Madrid.

Kurt Jara of Austria

The road to Argentina . . . all the qualifying round results

Classification:

1. Iran	4	4	0	0	8:0	8
2. Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	3	3:7	2
3. Syria	4	1	0	3	3:8	2
	12	6	0	6	13:13	12

Asia Group 4 (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emmirates withdrew 15.1.77)

11. 3.77	Doha	Bahrain v. Kuwait	0:3 (0:2)	4,000
13. 3.77	Doha	Qatar v. Bahrain	2:0 (1:0)	3,000
16. 3.77	Doha	Qatar v. Kuwait	0:2 (0:1)	4,000
17. 3.77	Doha	Bahrain v. Kuwait	1:2 (0:1)	2,000
19. 3.77	Doha	Qatar v. Bahrain	0:3 (0:1)	2,000
21. 3.77	Doha	Qatar v. Kuwait	1:4 (0:3)	2,000

Classification:

1. Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10:2	8
2. Qatar	4	1	0	3	3:8	2
3. Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4:6	2
	12	6	0	6	17:17	12

OCEANIA

13. 3.77	Fiji	Australia v. China Rep.	3:0 (2:0)	4,000
16. 3.77	Fiji	China Rep. v. Australia	1:2 (1:1)	2,000
20. 3.77	Auckland	New Zealand v. China Rep.	6:0 (4:0)	5,000
23. 3.77	Auckland	China Rep. v. New Zealand	0:6 (0:2)	3,000
27. 3.77	Sydney	Australia v. New Zealand	3:1 (0:1)	12,250
30. 3.77	Auckland	New Zealand v. Australia	1:1 (1:1)	12,000

Classification:

1. Australia	4	3	1	0	9:3	7
2. New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14:4	5
3. China Rep.	4	0	0	4	1:17	0
	12	5	2	5	24:24	12

Concluding Matches:

19. 6.77	Hong Kong	Hong Kong v. Iran	0:2 (0:1)	28,447
26. 6.77	Hong Kong	Hong Kong v. Korea Rep.	0:1 (0:0)	26,952
3. 7.77	Pusan	Korea Rep. v. Iran	0:0 (0:0)	14,882
10. 7.77	Adelaide	Australia v. Hong Kong	3:0 (1:0)	14,000
14. 8.77	Melbourne	Australia v. Iran	0:1 (0:0)	17,500
27. 8.77	Sydney	Australia v. Korea Rep.	2:1 (0:1)	8,719
2.10.77	Hong Kong	Hong Kong v. Kuwait	1:3 (1:1)	25,000
9.10.77	Seoul	Korea Rep. v. Kuwait	1:0 (0:0)	13,000
16.10.77	Sydney	Australia v. Kuwait	1:2 (0:1)	12,015
23.10.77	Seoul	Korea Rep. v. Australia	0:0 (0:0)	20,000
26.10.77	Tehran	Iran v. Kuwait	1:0 (0:0)	100,000
30.10.77	Hong Kong	Hong Kong v. Australia	2:5 (0:3)	8,000
5.11.77	Kuwait	Kuwait v. Korea Rep.	2:2 (0:1)	—
11.11.77	Tehran	Iran v. Korea Rep.	2:2 (0:1)	85,000
12.11.77	Kuwait	Kuwait v. Hong Kong	4:0 (3:0)	35,000
18.11.77	Tehran	Iran v. Hong Kong	3:0 (3:0)	55,000
19.11.77	Kuwait	Kuwait v. Australia	1:0 (0:0)	30,000
25.11.77	Tehran	Iran v. Australia	1:0 (1:0)	84,000
3.12.77	Kuwait	Kuwait v. Iran	1:2 (1:0)	—
4.12.77	Seoul	Korea Rep. v. Hong Kong	6:2 (2:0)	—

Classification:

1. Iran	8	6	2	0	12:3	14
2. Korea Rep.	8	3	4	1	12:8	10
3. Kuwait	8	4	1	3	15:6	9
4. Australia	8	3	1	4	11:8	7
5. Hong Kong	8	0	0	8	5:26	0
	40	16	8	16	53:53	40

EUROPE

Group 1 (Poland, Portugal, Denmark, Cyprus)

23. 5.76	Limassol	Cyprus v. Denmark	1:6 (1:3)	6,000
16.10.76	Porto	Portugal v. Poland	0:2 (0:0)	40,000
27.10.76	Copenhagen	Denmark v. Cyprus	5:0 (0:0)	30,000
31.10.76	Warsaw	Poland v. Cyprus	8:0 (3:0)	30,000
17.11.76	Lisbon	Portugal v. Denmark	1:0 (0:0)	30,000

Paolo Cesar Carpegiani — Gil, Tarciso, Reinaldo, Serginho, Roberto, Zico, Palhinha, Giorgio Mentosa, Paolo Cesar Lima.

IRAN

BRAZIL'S decision to cancel their visit to Teheran at the end of their April tour of Europe has upset Iran.

Officials had been counting on the former triple champions boosting interest in soccer and giving their team manager, Heshmat Mohadjerani, a yardstick against which to judge his men's progress towards their greatest challenge.

Now Iran hope to stage a match against Wales, to find out roughly what to expect when they face Scotland in Argentina.

Mohadjerani's team concern surrounds his best forward, Hassan Rowshan, who missed a number of qualifiers because of knee trouble. He has been packed off to West Germany for an operation, but hopes to regain fitness in time for the finals.

PERU

CHAMPIONS Alianza and Sporting Cristal make up the bulk of Peru's 33, with Sporting having the highest quota of 10 men in Marcos Calderon's squad.

Calderon complains that Peru's preparation will be the most hectic and badly planned of all the finalists, but familiarity with the conditions and the support of many fans will go some way to make up.

Typically, Perus were the last finalists still to decide on their headquarters, but it is certain that their star remains, as in 1970, Teofilo Cubillas.

He was equal top scorer with Alianza club-mate Revello in the championship just ended — each scored 35 goals in 22 games. No wonder there are rumours Cubillas may finish up with New York Cosmos.

Also on the transfer roundabout are young defender German Leguia and schemer Juan Jose Munante. Leguia has had a trial with Espanol Barcelona, while Munante — now in Mexico — is wanted back home by Alianza.

Calderon is hoping to squeeze in 10 friendlies in a springtime European tour, including matches with Yugoslavia, France, England, Spain, West Germany, Hungary and direct World Cup rivals Holland and Scotland. But it's more than likely that because of the shaky state of the FA's finances he will have to be satisfied with home games against touring club sides.

His squad: Quiroga (Sporting), Sartor (CNI), Ganoza (Alianza) — Navarro, Soria, Chumpitaz (Sporting), Reyes (Sport Boys), Manzo, Leguia (Municipal), Melendez (Aurich), Salguero, Rojas (Alianza), Reyna (Melgar), Diaz, Trigueros (Universitario) — Queseda, Gorriti, Rojas (Sporting), Velazquez, Duarte, Cubillas, Cueto (Alianza), Bonelli (Boys), Biseti (Bolognesi) — Munante (Universitario Autonoma de Mexico), Mosquera, Ramirez, Oblitas (Sporting), Zegarra (Melgar), Sotil (Alianza), Vasquez (Bolognesi), Perales (CNI), Labarthe (Boys).

SCOTLAND

MANAGER Ally MacLeod appears in an enviable position. He has a settled team, plenty of confidence, and a place in one of the less difficult groups.

Also, two lengthy transfer wrangles involving two of his key players have been resolved.

The first ended with the transfer of centre forward Joe Jordan to Manchester United from Leeds for £350,000. Jordan had been unsettled with Leeds since first inquiries from the continent began in 1975.

The second transfer was virtually a carbon copy. Again it meant a Leeds man joining United — in this case centre-back Gordon McQueen. The fee of £500,000 was a record between two British clubs and ended McQueen's fears of missing out on World Cup glory after Leeds dropped him as soon as the wheeling and dealing began.

SPAIN

THE players have already had the law laid down by boss Ladislao Kubala — "The World Cup isn't a holiday, it's hard work — so no wives will be allowed in Argentina to distract you."

More seriously, Real Madrid defender Jose Antonio Camacho probably won't be there either because of an injury in training. Ironically he was Spain's only ever-present in the qualifiers.

The operation he had to undergo was filmed by his club and national captain Pirri, who is studying to qualify as a doctor when his career ends. Past 30 now, Pirri hasn't long to go, but Kubala has said he is sure of a place in Argentina, whether he plays or not, because of his experience and authority.

Another Real Madrid player with mixed fortunes is right winger Juanito. He was the man knocked out by the Belgrade bottle, but a booking earlier in that match means he must miss the opening match of the finals against Austria.

Kubala began the new year well with a 2-1 win over Italy. But the next international isn't until April 26, when Spain face Mexico in Madrid. After that comes a game against Norway or Czechoslovakia (date and venue to be confirmed), then on May 22 the party leave for South America. In Uruguay they face the one-time world champions on May 24, then a Uruguayan Second Division XI on May 27.

The road to Argentina . . . all the qualifying round results

5.12.76	Limassol	Cyprus v. Portugal	1:2 (0:1)	7,000
1. 5.77	Copenhagen	Denmark v. Portugal	1:2 (0:1)	46,000
15. 5.77	Limassol	Cyprus v. Poland	1:3 (1:2)	8,000
21. 9.77	Chorzow	Poland v. Denmark	4:1 (2:0)	93,000
9.10.77	Copenhagen	Denmark v. Portugal	3:4 (1:2)	23,300
29.10.77	Chorzow	Poland v. Portugal	1:1 (1:0)	90,000
16.11.77	Lisbon	Portugal v. Cyprus	4:0 (2:0)	13,000

Classification:								
1. Poland	6	5	1	0	17:4	11
2. Portugal	6	4	1	1	12:6	9
3. Denmark	6	2	0	4	14:12	4
4. Cyprus	6	0	0	6	3:24	0
	24	11	2	11	46:48	24

Group 2 (Italy, England, Finland, Luxembourg)

13. 6.76	Helsinki	Finland v. England	1:4 (1:2)	24,336
23. 6.76	Helsinki	Finland v. Luxembourg	7:1 (3:0)	4,555
13.10.76	London	England v. Finland	2:1 (1:0)	92,000
16.10.76	Luxemburg	Luxemburg v. Italy	1:4 (0:2)	11,700
17.11.76	Rome	Italy v. England	2:0 (1:0)	70,718
30. 3.77	London	England v. Luxemburg	5:0 (1:0)	81,718
26. 5.77	Luxemburg	Luxemburg v. Finland	0:1 (0:0)	1,800
8. 6.77	Helsinki	Finland v. Italy	0:3 (0:1)	17,531
12.10.77	Luxemburg	Luxemburg v. England	0:2 (0:1)	10,521
15.10.77	Turin	Italy v. Finland	6:1 (3:0)	68,000
16.11.77	London	England v. Italy	2:0 (1:0)	90,000
3.12.77	Rome	Italy v. Luxemburg	3:0 (2:0)	75,000

Classification:						
1. Italy	6	5	0	1	18:4	10
2. England	6	5	0	1	15:4	10
3. Finland	6	2	0	4	11:15	4
4. Luxemburg	6	0	0	6	2:22	0
	24	12	0	12	46:46	24

Group 3 (German DR, Austria, Turkey, Malta)

31.10.76	Izmir	Turkey v. Malta	4:0 (1:0)	68,034
17.11.76	Dresden	German DR v. Turkey	1:1 (1:0)	30,000
5.12.76	Valetta	Malta v. Austria	0:1 (0:0)	7,368
2. 4.77	Valetta	Malta v. German DR	0:1 (0:0)	9,279
17. 4.77	Vienna	Austria v. Turkey	1:0 (1:0)	60,000
30. 4.77	Salzburg	Austria v. Malta	9:0 (5:0)	17,000
24. 9.77	Vienna	Austria v. German DR	1:1 (1:1)	72,000
12.10.77	Leipzig	German DR v. Austria	1:1 (0:1)	95,000
29.10.77	Bebleaberg	German DR v. Malta	9:0 (3:0)	23,000
30.10.77	Izmir	Turkey v. Austria	0:1 (0:0)	72,000
16.11.77	Izmir	Turkey v. German DR	1:2 (0:1)	10,000
27.11.77	Valletta	Malta v. Turkey	0:3 (0:2)	2,246

Classification:						
1. Austria	6	4	2	0	14:2	10
2. German DR	6	3	3	0	15:4	9
3. Turkey	6	2	1	3	9:5	5
4. Malta	6	0	0	6	0:37	0
	24	9	6	9	38:38	24

Group 4 (Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland North, Iceland)

5. 9.76	Reykjavik	Iceland v. Belgium	0:1 (0:0)	9,580
8. 9.76	Reykjavik	Iceland v. Netherlands	0:1 (0:1)	10,210
13.10.76	Rotterdam	Netherlands v. Ireland North	2:2 (0:1)	50,000
10.11.76	Liege	Belgium v. Ireland North	2:0 (1:0)	25,081
26. 3.77	Antwerp	Belgium v. Netherlands	0:2 (0:1)	48,343
11. 5.77	Reykjavik	Iceland v. Ireland North	1:0 (1:0)	10,269
31. 8.77	Nijmegen	Netherlands v. Iceland	4:1 (3:0)	18,200
3. 9.77	Anderlecht	Belgium v. Iceland	4:0 (2:0)	5,807
21. 9.77	Belfast	Ireland North v. Iceland	3:0 (0:0)	15,000
12.10.77	Belfast	Ireland North v. Netherlands	0:1 (0:0)	33,000
26.10.77	Amsterdam	Netherlands v. Belgium	1:0 (1:0)	65,000
16.11.77	Belfast	Ireland North v. Belgium	3:0 (1:0)	8,000

Classification:						
1. Netherlands	6	5	1	0	11:3	11
2. Belgium	6	3	0	3	7:6	6
3. Ireland North	6	2	1	3	7:6	5
4. Iceland	6	1	0	5	2:12	2
	24	11	2	11	27:27	24

Group 5 (Bulgaria, France, Ireland Rep.)

9.10.76	Sofia	Bulgaria v. France	2:2 (1:2)	45,000
17.11.76	Paris	France v. Ireland Rep.	2:0 (0:0)	43,417
30. 3.77	Dublin	Ireland Rep. v. France	1:0 (1:0)	36,000
1. 6.77	Sofia	Bulgaria v. Ireland Rep.	2:1 (1:0)	35,214
12.10.77	Dublin	Ireland Rep. v. Bulgaria	0:0 (0:0)	28,000
16.11.77	Paris	France v. Bulgaria	3:1 (1:0)	50,000

Classification:						
1. France	4	2	1	1	7:4	5
2. Bulgaria	4	1	2	1	5:5	4
3. Ireland Rep.	4	1	1	2	2:4	3
	12	4	4	4	14:14	12

Group 6 (Sweden, Switzerland, Norway)

16. 6.76	Solna	Sweden v. Norway	2:0 (2:0)	27,800
8. 9.76	Oslo	Norway v. Switzerland	1:0 (0:0)	15,000
9.10.76	Basle	Switzerland v. Sweden	1:2 (1:1)	30,000
8. 6.77	Solna	Sweden v. Switzerland	2:1 (0:0)	43,799
7. 9.77	Oslo	Norway v. Sweden	2:1 (1:0)	33,290
30.10.77	Berne	Switzerland v. Norway	1:0 (1:0)	11,000

Classification:						
1. Sweden	4	3	0	1	7:4	6
2. Norway	4	2	0	2	3:4	4
3. Switzerland	4	1	0	3	3:6	2
	12	6	0	6	13:13	12

Group 7 (Scotland, Czechoslovakia, Wales)

13.10.76	Prague	Czechoslovakia v. Scotland	2:0 (0:0)	80,000
17.11.76	Glasgow	Scotland v. Wales	1:0 (1:0)	65,000
30. 3.77	Wrexham	Wales v. Czechoslovakia	3:0 (1:0)	18,022
21. 9.77	Hampden Park	Scotland v. Czechoslovakia	3:1 (2:0)	85,000
12.10.77	Liverpool	Wales v. Scotland	0:2 (0:0)	50,050
16.11.77	Prague	Czechoslovakia v. Wales	1:0 (1:0)	20,000

Classification:						
1. Scotland	4	3	0	1	6:3	6
2. Czechoslovakia	4	2	0	2	4:6	4
3. Wales	4	1	0	3	3:4	2
	12	6	0	6	13:13	12

Group 8 (Yugoslavia, Spain, Rumania)

10.10.76	Seville	Spain v. Yugoslavia	1:0 (0:0)	19,217
16. 4.77	Bucharest	Rumania v. Spain	1:0 (1:0)	16,500
8. 5.77	Zagreb	Yugoslavia v. Rumania	0:2 (0:2)	40,000
26.10.77	Madrid	Spain v. Rumania	3:0 (0:0)	40,000
13.11.77	Bucharest	Rumania v. Yugoslavia	4:0 (3:2)	35,000
30.11.77	Belgrade	Yugoslavia v. Spain	0:1 (0:0)	—

Classification:						
1. Spain	4	3	0	1	4:1	6
2. Rumania	4	2	0	2	7:6	4
3. Yugoslavia	4	1	0	3	6:8	2
	12	6	0	6	17:17	12

Group 9 (USSR, Hungary, Greece)

9.10.76	Athens	Greece v. Hungary	1:1 (0:0)	25,000
24. 4.77	Moscow	USSR v. Greece	2:0 (1:0)	50,000
30. 4.77	Budapest	Hungary v. USSR	2:1 (1:0)	70,000
10. 5.77	Thessaloniki	Greece v. USSR	1:0 (0:0)	32,000
18. 5.77	Tbilisi	USSR v. Hungary	2:0 (2:0)	70,000
28. 5.77	Budapest	Hungary v. Greece	3:0 (2:0)	70,000

Classification:						
1. Hungary	4	2	1	1	6:4	5
2. USSR	4	2	0	2	5:3	4
3. Greece	4	1	1	2	2:6	3
	12	5	2	5	13:13	12

EUROPE/SOUTH AMERICA

29.10.77	Budapest	Hungary v. Bolivia	6:0 (5:0)	65,000
30.11.77	La Paz	Bolivia v. Hungary	2:3 (1:2)	—

Qualified for Argentina: Hungary

Meanwhile the excellent form of Coventry goalkeeper Jim Blyth — he saved a penalty from Liverpool spot kick king Phil Neal in a league game — made him narrow favourite to oust the unpredictable Alan Rough.

SWEDEN

APRIL 19 is an important date for Bjorn Nordqvist, the 35-year-old IFK Göteborg centre-back, for that is when he hopes against West Germany to equal Bobby Moore's 108 international appearances.

In the World Cup Finals Nordqvist should add to that total, but meanwhile it is one of his younger club and national team colleagues providing most concern for boss Georg 'Aeby' Ericsson (along with Helmut Schoen the only 1974 survivor).

The subject of his anxiety is tall spearhead Ralf Edström, who returned to IFK last year after several good seasons with PSV Eindhoven. Knee and back injuries had blighted his last season in Holland, and now more knee trouble could threaten his appearance in Argentina.

HOLLAND

ERNST HAPPEL is not a happy man for, while World Cup rivals rate Holland among the favourites, they won't justify that ranking unless they can put out a strong team.

And, as the rate players are dropping out, that seems more and more unlikely.

After Johan Cruyff's decision to retire in advance of Argentina, his usual deputy, Ajax to scorer Ruud Geels, said he too didn't want to go.

Then Feyenoord goalkeeper Eddy Treytel, and PSV Eindhoven men Jan Van Beveren and Willy Van der Kuylen asked to be ignored too. Treytel and Van der Kuylen might have been struggling to make the 22, but Van Beveren, despite appalling luck with injuries, remains Holland's best goalkeeper.

Happel sternly criticised the drop-outs, but plans to try to persuade Cruyff to think again — and has, as a precaution, included him in the preliminary squad of 33.

Meanwhile, selection problems have been complicated further with right back Wim Suurbier's failure to settle at Schalke following his move from Ajax.

The only get-together recently was a match against a team of foreigners playing in Holland. The Dutch won 1-0, thanks to a goal from Bastia star Johnny Rep.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Part Three—Holland and France

Group 4

September 5, 1976 in Reyjavik
ICELAND (0) 0
BELGIUM (0) 1 (Van der Elst)
Iceland: Stefansson; Olav Sigurvinsson, Geirsson, Edvaldsson, Petursson, Leifsson, Torfasson, Asgeir Sigurvinsson, Steinsson, Thorbjorsson, Thordarsson.
Belgium: Piot; Gerets, Renquin, Vandendaele, Maertens, Van der Elst, Coeck, Verheyen (Cools), Courant, Wellens (Haleydt), Teugels.
Attendance: 8,000.

September 8, 1976 in Reyjavik
ICELAND (0) 0
HOLLAND (1) 1 (Geels)
Iceland: Stefansson; Olav Sigurvinsson, Edvaldsson, Geirsson, Petursson, Torfasson, Leifsson, Asgeir Sigurvinsson, Pordarsson, Hallgrimsson, Eliasson.
Holland: Pulter; Van Kraay, Rijsbergen, Krol, Willy Van der Kerkhof, Haan, Jansen, Van der Kuylen, Rene Van der Kerkhof, Geels (Kist), Rensenbrink.
Attendance: 9,000

October 13, 1976 in Rotterdam
HOLLAND (0) 2 (Krol, Cruyff)
N. IRELAND (1) 2 (McGrath, Spence)
Holland: Treytel; Willy Van der Kerkhof (Rene Van der Kerkhof), Van Kraay, Rijsbergen, Krol, Neeskens, Jansen, Haan, Cruyff, Geels (Van der Kuylen), Rensenbrink.
N. Ireland: Jennings; Nicholl, Jackson, Rice, Hunter, Hamilton, Best, McIlroy, McGrath (Spence), McCreery, Anderson.
Attendance: 45,000.

November 10, 1976 at Liege
BELGIUM (1) 2 (Van Gool, Lambert)
N. IRELAND (0) 0
Belgium: Piot; Gerets, Broos, Renquin, Vandendaele, Cools, Vander Elst, Coeck, Lambert, Courant, Van Gool.
N. Ireland: Jennings, Nicholl, Rice (Nelson), Jackson, Hunter, Hamilton, Best, McIlroy, McGrath, McCreery, Anderson.
Attendance: 30,000.

August 31, 1977 at Nijmegen
HOLLAND (3) 4 (Van Hanegem, Geels 2, 1 pen, Rep)
ICELAND (0) 1 (Asgeir Sigurvinsson)
Holland: Van Beveren; Suurbier, Krol, Rijsbergen (Dusbaba), Hovenkamp, Willy Van der Kerkhof, Jansen, Van Hanegem, Rep, Geels, Rene Van der Kerkhof.
Iceland: Degsson; Olav Sigurvinsson, Geirsson, Torfasson, Gudlaugsson, Leifsson, Asgeir Sigurvinsson, Sveinsson, Hilmarsson, Albertsson, Thordarson.
Attendance: 25,000.

September 4, 1977 at Brussels
BELGIUM (2) 4 (Van Binst, Martens pen., Courant, Lambert)
ICELAND (0) 0
Belgium: Pfaff; Van Binst, Broos, Meeuws, Martens, Cools, Courant, Vandereycken, Vander Elst, Lambert, Ceulemans.
Iceland: Degsson; Olav Sigurvinsson, Geirsson, Torfasson, Gudlaugsson, Leifsson, Asgeir Sigurvinsson, Sveinsson, Hilmarsson, Albertsson, Thordarsson.
Attendance: 15,000.

September 21, 1977 at Belfast
N. IRELAND (0) 2 (McGrath, McIlroy)
ICELAND (0) 0
N. Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Nicholl, Hunter, Nelson, McIlroy, Best, O'Neill, McCreery, McGrath, Anderson.
Iceland: Degsson; Halldorsson, Gudlaugsson, Gunlaugsson, Geirsson, Edvaldsson (J), Edvaldsson (A), Leifsson, Hallgrimsson (Danilledsson), Eliasson (Bjornsson), Sveinsson.
Attendance: 15,000.

October 12, 1977 at Belfast
N. IRELAND (0) 0
HOLLAND (0) 1 (Willy Van der Kerkhof)
N. Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Nicholl, Hunter, O'Neill, McIlroy, Best, McCreery, McGrath, Anderson.
Holland: Jongbloed; Hovenkamp, Suurbier, Rijsbergen (Dusbaba), Krol, Willy Van der Kerkhof, Jansen, Van Hanegem, Rep, Cruyff (Van der Kuylen), Rene Van der Kerkhof.
Attendance: 33,000.

March 26, 1977 at Antwerp
BELGIUM (0) 0
HOLLAND (1) 2 (Rep, Cruyff)
Belgium: Piot; Coeck, Bastyns, Broos, Volders, Van der Elst, Cools, Verheyen, Courant, Van Gool (Ceulemans), Wellens.
Holland: Schrijvers; Krol, Suurbier, Rijsbergen, Hovenkamp, Neeskens, Kist (Van der Kuylen), Willy Van der Kerkhof, Rep, Cruyff, Rensenbrink.
Attendance: 65,000.

June 11, 1977 at Reyjavik
ICELAND (1) 1 (Albertsson)
N. IRELAND (0) 0
Iceland: Degsson; Olav Sigurvinsson, Gudlaugsson, Torfasson, Geirsson, Edvaldsson, Albertsson, Thorbjornsson, Thordarsson, Asgeir Sigurvinsson, Leifsson.
N. Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Nicholl, Hunter, Hamilton, McGrath, McIlroy, Jackson, McCreery, Anderson.
Attendance: 3,000.

October 26, 1977 at Amsterdam
HOLLAND (1) 1 (Rene Van der Kerkhof)
BELGIUM (0) 0
Holland: Jongbloed; Krol, Suurbier, Dusbaba, Hovenkamp, Neeskens, Jansen (Van Hanegem), Willy Van der Kerkhof, Rene Van der Kerkhof (Geels) Cruyff, Rensenbrink.
Belgium: Pfaff, Gerets, Broos, Thissen (Van der Elst), Renquin, Vandereycken, Meeuws, Coeck, Cools, Van Gool, Lambert.
Attendance: 65,000.

November 16, 1977 at Belfast
N. IRELAND (1) 3 (Armstrong 2, McGrath)
BELGIUM (0) 0
N. Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Nicholl (J), Hunter (Nicholl C.), Nelson, McIlroy, McCreery, McGrath, Anderson, Armstrong, Stewart.
Belgium: Pfaff; Gerets, Meeuws, Broos, Renquin, Cools, Coeck, Verdeuteren, Mommens, Wellens, Verdeuteren.
Attendance: 8,000.

Group 5

October 9, 1976 at Sofia
BULGARIA (1) 2 (Bonev, Panov)
FRANCE (2) 2 (Platini, Lacombe)
Bulgaria: Krastev; Grantcharov, Tichanski, Vassilev, Dimitrov (B) (Alexandrov), Stankov, Voinov, Bonev, Milanov, Denev (Tsvetkov), Panov.
France: Baratelli; Janvion, Bossis, Lopez, Tresor, Bathenay, Gallice, Synseghel, Lacombe, Platini, Six.
Attendance: 60,000.

November 17, 1976 at Paris
FRANCE (0) 2 (Platini, Bathenay)
EIRE (0) 0
France: Baratelli; Janvion, Lopez, Tresor, Bossis, Kerunzora, Bathenay, Platini, Rocheteau, Lacombe, (Rouyer), Six.
Eire: Keerns; Mulligan, Holmes, Daly, O'Leary, Martin, Brady, Stapleton (Walsh), Heighway, Giles, Givens.
Attendance: 50,000.

March 30, 1977 at Dublin
EIRE (1) 1 (Brady)
FRANCE (0) 0
Eire: Keerns; Mulligan, O'Leary, Martin, Holmes, Daly, Giles, Givens, Heighway, Brady, Treacy.
France: Rey; Janvion, Tusseau, Rio, Lopez, Bathenay, Synseghel, Platini, Rocheteau, Lacombe, Rouyer.
Attendance: 48,000.

June 1, 1977 at Sofia
BULGARIA (1) 2 (Panov, Jeliaskov)
EIRE (0) 1 (Givens)
Bulgaria: Geranov; Dimitrov, Ivkov, Arabov, Vassilev, Barsov (Jeliaskov), Borissov, Panov, Kdrakov, (Alexandrov), Milanov, Tzvetkov.
Eire: Keerns; Mulligan, O'Leary, Martin, Holmes, Daly (Campbell), Giles, Brady, Stapleton, Givens, Heighway.
Attendance: 60,000.

October 12, 1977 at Dublin
EIRE (0) 0
BULGARIA (0) 0
Eire: Peyton; Mulligan, O'Leary, Lawrenson, Holmes, Giles, Brady, Daly, Givens, Heighway, Stapleton.
Bulgaria: Stalkov; Vassilev (Grantcharov), Angelov, Bonev, Ivkov, Arabov, Kolev, Kostov, Dvenzov, Panov, Zvetkov (Alexandrov).
Attendance: 25,000.

November 16, 1977 at Paris
FRANCE (1) 3 (Rocheteau, Platini, Dalger)
BULGARIA (0) 1 (Zvetkov)
France: Rey; Tresor, Janvion, Rio, Bossis, Bathenay, Guillou, Platini, Rocheteau (Dalger), Lacombe, Six.
Bulgaria: Goranov; Bonev (G), Angelov, Ivkov, Vassilev, Bonev (D), Arabov (Zvetkov), Kostov, Alexandrov, Stankov, Kolev (Voinov).
Attendance: 50,000.

Missing line-ups from last month

Group 2

ITALY (2) 3 (Bettega, Graziani, Causio)
LUXEMBOURG (0) 0
Italy: Zoff; Cuccureddu, Tardelli (Maldera), Benetti, Gentile, Manfredonia, Causio, Zaccarelli, Graziani, Antognoni, Bettega.
Luxembourg: Moes; Barthel, Fandel, Mond, Rothman, Zwang, Michaux (Marquet), De Domenico, Dussier, Philipp, Zwally.
Attendance: 90,000.

LEAGUE TABLES

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	23	16	4	3	55	33	36
Standard	23	14	5	4	44	24	33
Lierse SK	23	13	4	6	41	27	30
Anderlecht	23	12	5	6	40	22	29
Beerschot	23	9	10	3	42	26	28
Beveren-Waas	23	11	5	7	33	21	27
Winterslag	22	9	8	5	33	27	26
RWD Mol'beek	23	9	6	8	42	36	24
Antwerp	23	8	7	8	31	27	23
Waregem	23	8	5	10	32	36	21
Lokeren	23	8	6	9	34	26	20
SC Charleroi	23	8	4	11	30	40	20
Beringen	23	7	5	11	21	32	19
Kortrijk	23	5	8	10	28	37	18
La Louviere	23	6	5	12	22	45	17
Lattich	23	5	6	12	35	40	16
Boom	23	4	5	14	27	58	13
CS Bruges	23	2	6	15	14	46	10

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	26	16	3	7	59	46	35
Nantes	26	13	8	5	42	22	34
Monaco	26	13	8	5	46	32	34
Marseille	26	14	5	7	47	31	33
Strasbourg	26	12	8	6	52	31	32
Laval	26	11	7	8	36	35	29
St-Etienne	25	12	4	9	33	33	28
Nancy	26	11	6	9	46	35	28
Sochaux	26	11	6	9	44	35	28
Bastia	26	13	2	11	38	35	28
St-Germain	26	9	7	10	51	44	25
Lyon	26	10	4	12	44	38	24
Bordeaux	25	9	4	12	31	42	22
Lens	26	8	6	12	43	52	22
Metz	26	9	4	13	28	44	22
Valenciennes	26	8	5	13	37	46	21
Troyes	25	7	6	12	28	46	20
Nîmes	25	6	6	13	27	41	18
Reims	26	6	6	14	25	42	18
Rouen	26	6	3	17	33	58	15

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	17	9	7	1	26	8	25
Milan	17	7	7	3	27	18	21
Vicenza	17	7	7	3	24	18	21
Torino	17	8	5	4	18	12	21
Inter	17	8	4	5	18	12	20
Perugia	17	6	7	4	24	20	19
Napoli	17	6	6	5	21	12	18
Lazio	17	4	9	4	19	19	17
Roma	17	5	6	6	20	21	16
Verona	17	3	10	4	17	19	16
Genoa	17	4	7	6	16	22	15
Atalanta	17	1	12	4	12	17	14
Foggia	17	4	6	7	10	24	14
Bologna	17	4	5	8	12	19	13
Pescara	17	2	7	8	14	25	11
Fiorentina	17	3	5	9	16	28	11

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria WAC	22	15	5	2	44	21	35
SSW Innsbruck	21	10	4	7	27	17	24
Sturm Graz	22	8	7	7	34	34	23
Rapid Wien	23	7	8	8	39	29	22
Grazer AK	23	6	10	7	30	32	22
VOeEST Linz	23	6	9	8	29	34	21
Vienna	23	8	5	10	22	34	21
Wiener SK/Post	21	6	7	8	28	35	19
Admira/Wacker	23	6	7	10	33	38	19
Linzer ASK	23	5	8	10	27	39	18

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	20	14	3	3	45	19	31
Barcelona	20	11	5	4	31	14	27
Rayo Vallecano	20	10	4	6	39	26	24
Valencia	20	9	5	6	30	19	23
Gijon	20	8	7	5	30	24	23
Athletic Bilbao	20	8	6	6	34	24	22
Salamanca	20	9	4	7	25	23	22
Las Palmas	20	7	6	7	29	29	20
Sevilla	20	7	6	7	21	26	20
Real Sociedad	20	8	3	9	34	23	19
Elche	20	8	3	9	27	37	19
Athletico Madrid	19	8	2	9	30	32	18
Burgos	20	6	6	8	19	25	18
Espanol Barcelona	20	8	1	11	28	43	17
Real Betis	19	4	7	8	25	29	15
Santander	20	5	5	10	17	29	15
Cadiz	20	4	5	11	18	45	13
Hercules Alicante	20	3	6	11	17	32	12

LEAGUE TABLES continued on page 50

SHOP WINDOW

Advertisements from bona fide collectors and non-profit making organisations printed FREE of charge.

WILL EXCHANGE three different New Zealand club metal lapel badges for fifteen Manchester United programmes (home or away, any year). Paul Moon, Box 176, Oamaru, North Otago, New Zealand.

WANTED: Information on all the teams who play in the Minero and Rio Grande do Sul Championships, especially Internacional Porto Alegre. Stephen Sharpe, 2 Deal Court, Northampton, NN1 3HE, England.

WANTED: 1961 E.C.W.C. final programme Rangers v Fiorentina, in good condition. 11 Teobalds Court, 40 Queens Drive, London N4 2XG.

COLLECTION of Soccer Books and Magazines for sale or exchange, including Sportsmans Book Club choices, Bev's Annuals, Paperbacks, Spurs scrapbooks, Soccer Stars, Football Monthlies etc. S.A.E. for list. Schrittner, 59 Granard House, Bradstock Road, Hackney, London E9 5BN.

FRENCH international football statistician would like to correspond with anyone who is interested in international football, particularly from Hungary, Greece, Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Portugal and Ireland. Can write in English, French or German. Guy Cipriani, Trois-Veyres, 58260 Le Machine France.

PATRICK SMITH will pay at the following rates for old magazines 'Drive' 20p each, Kicker 20p, France-Football 20p, don Balon 20p. Others 20p each. The magazines should be from 1970 to date. Write to Patrick Smith, 104 St. John's Park, Waterford, Rep. of Ireland.

FOR SALE: 6,000 assorted programmes from last 20 years. Mainly Liverpool but every club covered. Includes foreign, cup finals, European games etc. For sale individually or in lots. For full list write to 27 Gatesmead, Birchen Lane, Heywards Heath, W. Sussex, RH16 1SN.

FOR SALE: Goal magazine, Nos 1-120 inclusive, plus binders, for best offer. Michael Oliver, 23 Marina Road, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 6AL.

WANTED: Pen pals from W. Germany and Holland who could swap programmes, pennants, badges, pictures etc. My favourite team in England is Nottingham Forest F.C. Clive Dobbs, 3 Meadowvale Crescent, Clifton Estate, Nottingham NG11 9LZ, England.

PRIVATE COLLECTION of programmes, Shoot (1970 to date) 'Goal' (No 1 onwards), and Football Monthly (1968 onwards) for sale or exchange for pre September 1968 'World Soccer' and 'Soccer Stars' s.a.e. for lists. 55 Estord Ave, Wigston, Leicester.

WANTED: Information about soccer in U.S.A. and Canada, e.g. programmes, tickets, photos etc. Write to Mr M. Fowler, 13 Leonard St., Keswick, Cumbria, England.

WANTED: Rothmans Football Yearbooks, 1970-71, 1971-72 & 1972-74. Please write stating price etc., to R. McCutcheon, 6 Seaforth Terrace, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, Scotland.

ANTONIO MAZZA from Winnipeg, Canada, would like to correspond with football fans from Turkey, Iceland, Malta, Kuwait, Fiji, Mexico, Gibraltar, Somalia, Egypt, Iraq, Costa Rica and Tunisia, for exchange of information, magazines, and programmes, pictures etc. Antonio Mazza, 346 Mountain Avenue, Winnipeg 4, Manitoba, R2W 1K1, Canada.

FOR SALE: programmes, Big Match, English and Scottish leagues and cups. Most league clubs available. Stocks from from early fifties to date. For lists send 9p stamp to: David Harrison, 4 Pinsfield Square, Easington, Peterlee, Co. Durham SR8 3AG.

FOR SALE: 130 Dutch football programmes, all different and mint condition. £10 or nearest offer. Ian Wheeler, 4 Dark Lane, Cheshunt, Herts.

WANTED: Following issues of "World Soccer" Jan. 1961, August 1963 to January 1965, August to November 1965, and April 1972 to August 1974. Name your price. Ed Schauerte 6705 N. Hi-Wood Court, Peoria, Illinois USA.

WANTED: Rothmans Year Books, 1970 to 1973 — Vols 1 to 4 inclusive. Very good prices paid (in sterling) for good condition. T. Elmore, P.O. Box 549, Apapa, Nigeria.

WANTED: International Football Book Nos. 16, 17. The Real Madrid Book of Football, Pub. 1961: The Brazil Book of Football, pub. 1963. Contact Mr B. W. Cranny, 73 Blake Road, Bounds Green, London N11 or phone 889 0836 after 6 pm. Will pay excellent prices. 73 Blake Road, Bounds Green, London N11.

WANTED: Scotland's three 1974 World Cup programmes. Scotland v Zaire, Scotland v Yugoslavia, Scotland v Brazil. Will pay £1 for each programme. Gardman, Eastriggs, Annan, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	23	16	4	3	50	25	36
Aberdeen	24	13	6	5	38	21	32
Dundee United	22	9	6	7	25	17	24
Partick Thistle	22	10	4	8	31	33	24
Motherwell	24	9	5	10	30	29	23
Hibernian	21	8	4	9	20	20	20
Celtic	21	8	3	10	31	31	19
St. Mirren	23	7	5	11	33	37	19
Ayr United	23	7	4	12	24	42	18
Clydebank	21	3	3	15	12	39	9

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cologne	24	15	2	7	59	32	32
Bor. M'gladbach	24	12	6	6	52	36	30
Hertha BSC	24	12	6	6	43	35	30
Fortuna Dusseldorf	24	11	6	7	35	24	28
VfB Stuttgart	24	12	3	9	42	30	27
Schalke 04	24	11	5	8	37	37	27
MSV Duisburg	24	10	5	9	45	40	25
Hamburger SV	24	10	5	9	39	41	25
Kaiserslautern	24	11	3	10	39	44	25
Eintracht Frankf.	24	10	4	10	40	38	24
Bor. Dortmund	24	10	4	10	43	44	24
Eintr. Braunschw.	24	11	2	11	31	36	24
VfL Bochum	24	7	7	10	27	28	21
Bayern	24	7	7	10	42	46	21
Saarbrucken	24	6	9	9	30	43	21
Werder Bremen	24	7	4	13	29	42	18
1860 Munich	24	5	6	13	29	43	16
St. Pauli	24	5	4	15	33	56	14

ARGENTINA: National Championship
(final table — group winners qualify for semi-finals)

Section A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's O.B. (Ros)	14	8	5	1	33	11	21
San Lorenzo	14	5	7	2	20	14	17
Ind. Rivadavia (Men.)	14	6	5	3	24	20	17
Gim. La Plata	14	4	7	3	21	21	15
San Martin Tuc.	14	2	10	2	18	18	14
Estud. Bs Aires	14	3	6	5	15	22	12
Banfield	14	3	4	7	17	28	10
Ota. Mar del Pl.	14	1	4	9	7	21	6
Section B	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**Pts**
Est. La Plata	14	10	2	2	32	13	22
Boca Juniors	14	7	3	4	22	16	17
Rosario Cent.	14	7	2	5	20	13	16
Los Andes (San Ju.)	14	6	4	4	22	19	16
Quilmes	14	5	4	5	10	15	14
Cipolletti	14	6	1	7	20	26	13
Chac. Jun.	14	4	1	9	20	26	9
Cent. Norte Sal.	14	2	1	11	14	32	5
Section C	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**Pts**
Tall. Cord.	14	9	2	3	27	20	20
Racing Club	14	6	5	3	22	12	17
River Plate	14	7	1	6	32	15	15
Velez Sars.	14	6	3	5	27	24	15
Platense	14	5	4	5	25	25	14
Sar. Chaco.	14	4	4	6	18	29	12
Colon Santa Fe	14	4	3	7	22	29	11
Gim. Jujuy	14	3	2	9	7	26	8
Section D	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**Pts**
Independiente	14	10	1	3	30	13	21
Belgrano Cor.	14	8	3	3	25	18	19
Huracan	14	6	3	5	25	23	15
Atlanta	14	5	3	6	14	15	13
Argent. Jun.	14	5	3	6	18	21	13
Union Sante Fe	14	4	4	6	20	23	12
At. Ledesma	14	3	4	7	13	21	10
All Boys	14	3	3	8	19	30	9

PARAGUAY: First Division
(final positions)

1) Cerro Porteño 37 pts; 2) Libertad 34; 3) Olimpia 32; 4) Guarani 28; 5) Luqueño River Plate 26; 7) Tembetary, Rubio Nu 22; 9) Nacional 16.

CHILE: First Division
(final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Española	34	21	9	4	72	28	51
Everton	34	20	9	5	64	38	49
Palestino	34	18	11	5	70	33	47
Colo Colo	34	15	12	7	54	43	42
Univ. de Chile	34	13	13	8	50	45	39
Lota Sch.	34	11	14	9	46	45	36
Concepcion	34	14	7	13	51	49	35
Aviacion	34	12	10	12	46	51	34
Audax Italiano	34	12	9	13	48	53	33
O'Higgins	34	10	11	13	40	44	31
Green Cross	34	9	12	13	46	61	30
Huachipato	34	9	12	13	39	46	30
Univ. Catolica	34	8	12	14	36	48	28
Nubiense	34	8	12	14	39	46	28
Wanderers	34	9	10	15	50	66	28
Ovalle	34	9	9	16	42	52	27
San. Morning	34	6	15	13	37	50	27
Antofagasta	34	5	7	22	29	65	17

VENEZUELA: Professional League
(final round final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa	10	6	2	2	19	11	14
Estudiantes	10	5	3	2	12	8	13
Valencia	10	4	3	3	13	12	11
Portugues	10	3	4	3	14	14	10
Italia	10	4	1	5	16	16	9
Univer. Merida	10	1	1	8	10	23	3

URUGUAY: First Division
(after 18 games — 4 to play)

1) Nacional 30 pts; 2) Peñarol 29; 3) Defensor 25; 4) Danubio 22; 5) Rentistas 17; 6) Wanderers, Bella Vista 15; 8) Liverpool 14; 9) Cerro, Sudamerica 13; 11) River Plate 12; 12) Huracan Buceo 11.

BOLIVIA: Major League

Group A: 1) Oriente Petrolero 18 pts; 2) Bolivar 16; 3) Guabira, Independiente Unificada 14; 5) Car Bolivia, Bata, Aurora 13; 8) Stormers 3. Group B: 1) The Strongest 18; 2) San Jose 15; 3) Blooming, Wilsterman 14; 5) Municipal 10; 6) Real Santa Cruz 4; 7) 20 de Agosto 1.

ECUADOR: Final Championship round
(three games to go)

1) Nacional (Quito) 14 pts; 2) Universidad Catolica (Quito) 10; 3) Barcelona (Guayaquil) 9; 4) Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) 8; 5) Deportivo Cuenca 7; 6) Emelec (Guayaquil) 6 (after seven games, including bonus points).

PERU: National Championship
(final round — one game to go)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	39	18	14	7	77	47	50
Melgar	39	17	14	8	49	40	48
Sporting Cristal	38	17	11	10	69	39	45
Col. Nac. Iquitos	39	15	15	9	45	44	45
Col. Bolognesi	39	15	11	12	45	45	41
Universitario	38	13	12	12	52	44	38
Sport Boys	30	13	5	12	37	48	31
At. Chalaco	30	9	11	10	42	40	29
Deportivo Junin	30	10	8	12	41	53	29
Union Huaral	30	9	10	11	43	52	28
Alfonso Ugarte	30	9	8	13	42	46	26
Defensor Lima	30	9	8	13	42	46	26
Juan Aurich	30	7	12	11	31	37	26
Leon de Huanuco	30	10	6	14	35	47	26
Deport. Municipal	30	6	10	13	36	46	22
Cienciano	30	6	9	15	21	37	21

(Top six continue playing each other in final round)

COLOMBIA:
Professional League final round
(final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jun. Baran.	10	7	1	2	14	9	15
Deport. Cali	10	5	2	3	20	13	12
Million. Bogota	10	5	2	3	15	13	12
Nacional Med.	10	3	4	3	12	10	10
Indep. Sa. Fe (Bog.)	10	2	3	5	13	15	7
Bucaramanga	10	2	0	8	12	25	4

BRAZIL: National Championship
Second round group leaders

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
Corinth. S. Paulo	2	2	0	0	7	0	2	6
Sao Paulo	3	2	0	1	9	3	2	6
Inter. Porto Aleg.	3	1	1	1	7	4	1	4
Group H	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B***	**Pts**
Bahia	3	3	0	0	5	0	2	8
Palm. S. Paulo	2	1	1	0	4	2	1	4
Santos	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	3
Group I	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B***	**Pts**
Ponte Preta	3	2	1	0	5	0	2	7
Vasco da Gama	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Joinville	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
Group J	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B***	**Pts**
Botafogo Rio	3	1	2	0	4	3	0	4
Operario	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	4
Botafogo S. Pa.	3	0	3	0	4	4	0	3
Group K	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B***	**Pts**
XV de Novembro	3	2	0	1	4	1	1	5
Flamengo Rio	3	2	0	1	4	2	1	5
ABC	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	3
Group L	**P**	**W**	**D**	**L**	**F**	**A**	**B***	**Pts**
Atlet. Min. Ger.	3	3	0	0	7	2	2	8
Guarani	3	1	0	2	6	2	1	3
Santa Cruz	2	1	0	1	2	3	0	2

*Extra point for winning by more than one goal.

BASS League of Ireland
(Eire)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	21	13	6	2	57	19	32
Finn Harps	21	14	2	5	46	26	30
Drogheda Utd	21	10	8	3	38	21	28
Shamrock Rov	21	10	8	3	33	18	28
Cork Alberts	21	10	6	5	27	21	26
Sligo Rovers	21	10	5	6	44	27	25
Limerick	21	8	8	5	30	23	24
Dundalk	21	8	6	7	31	25	22
Waterford	21	8	6	7	29	33	22
Athlone Town	21	7	6	8	31	32	20
St Patrick's Ath	21	7	5	9	23	24	19
Shelbourne	21	4	7	10	25	36	15
Cork Celtic	21	3	9	9	25	40	15
Galway Rovers	21	3	6	12	11	38	12
Home Farm	21	5	2	14	20	51	12
Thurles Town	21	1	4	16	20	56	6

FIAT Irish League
(Northern Ireland)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	12	10	2	0	36	13	22
Glentoran	12	9	1	2	37	11	19
Glenavon	12	9	0	3	21	12	18
Coleraine	12	7	3	2	23	14	17
Portadown	12	6	2	4	26	14	14
Cliftonville	12	5	2	5	16	24	12
Distillery	12	4	2	6	17	30	10
Ards	12	4	1	7	18	25	9
Larne	12	4	0	8	11	18	8
Bangor	12	2	2	8	10	20	6
Crusaders	12	2	2	8	10	28	6
Ballymena Utd	12	1	1	10	9	25	3

WORLD SOCCER (incorporating SOCCER STAR) is published monthly by Websters Publications Ltd., 79 Temple Chambers, London, EC4, England. Situated at the address are the magazine's Editorial, Advertising and Publishing offices. Printed by The Chesham Press Ltd., Chesham, Buckinghamshire. Websters Publications Ltd. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.

ALI KEMAL Turkey

World SOCCER

SOTIL of Peru